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Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
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720 King St. W
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway
1184 Kennedy Rd.
3 - 2610 Weston Rd.
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
104 - 5050 Dufferin St.
25 Davenport Rd.
1158 Warden Ave.

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Square)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
6535B Mississauga Rd.
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Newmarket
Upper Canada Mall
1100 Gorham St.

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

EAST

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Pickering
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Oshawa Centre
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MAPLE LEAFS SKATE PAST SENATORS, PG 24

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Brit airline travellers left in lurch

STRIKE British Airways cabin crew will strike over Christmas, their union said yesterday, throwing the plans of thousands of holiday travellers into uncertainty at one of the busiest times of the year.

Strikes are to begin Dec. 22 and run until Jan. 2, said Len McCluskey, the assistant general secretary for Britain's Unite union. McCluskey said 92.5 per cent of workers voted in favour of striking.

The struggling carrier has announced sweeping changes as part of its bid to cut costs, including axing 1,700 jobs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Food pg 32

Saddle up with this dish

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Roy (Doc) Halladay tips his hat to fans at the Rogers Centre in this file photo. Reports say the Toronto Blue Jays have reached a tentative deal that will send the ace pitcher to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Doctor is out

Jays reach tentative deal to send Halladay to Phillies

The Toronto Blue Jays are poised to make a bold and painful move toward rebuilding the franchise by dealing franchise icon Roy (Doc) Halladay for a slew of young players.

Multiple reports say a tentative and complicated three-way deal has been reached that would send the right-handed ace to Philadelphia, with the Phillies flipping lefthander Cliff Lee, another Cy Young Award winner, to the Seattle Mariners.

Both teams would then send prospects to the Blue Jays and several sources indicated to The Canadian Press that right-hander Phillippe Aumont of Gatineau, Que., would be among the returns from Seattle. There was also speculation that outfielder Mike Saunders of Victoria would join him. The Phillies are believed to be including lefty J.A. Happ, righty Joe Blanton and outfielder Dominic Brown in the trade, although the names varied from source to source and report to report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prized pitcher

- The 32-year-old Halladay is the most prized pitcher on the trade market. A six-time all-star and the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, the right-hander went 17-10 with a 2.79 earned-run average for the Blue Jays last season.

Climate boycott wastes critical time: Minister

Go Green

It was a mercurial Monday in the Danish capital as climate talks resumed after an earlier boycott by the developing world stalled negotiations for several hours.

The move drew a scolding from Environment Minister Jim Prentice for wasting what precious little time is left to reach a new greenhouse gas deal.

Negotiators from China, India and other emerging economies walked out of the negotiations in Copenhagen over a dispute about how much rich countries should reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions.

The boycott, led by African countries, appeared to have set back negotiations at a time when talks were already unravelling over disputes about financing for developing countries. Prentice told reporters yesterday the protest didn't help matters.

"We have lost some time, there is no doubt about that," he said.

"That is not particularly helpful. But, all in all, it's our responsibility to get on with it and continue to negotiate."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 8, 12

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Local

Actor donates partial award winnings

Actor Paul Gross, left, is donating the $25,000 he received as winner of the 2009 Governor General's Performing Arts Award to a Toronto arts program. The Remix Project helps young people start careers in the arts. Gross received the Governor General's Award for his First World War film Passchendaele, which he directed, wrote and starred in. The actor became involved with The Remix Project last spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

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Tomorrow's Metro

West View
Paul Sullivan brings the West's perspective on Canadian events to Metro's pages.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Police and search crew members attend the funeral of a Nova Scotia boy who died after getting lost in the woods. Watch at **metronews.ca/canada**

Your Money Allan Small offers a look at what 2010 may hold for investors at **metronews.ca/investing**

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Payday loan rates rising 'astronomically'

A public watchdog group warns some Ontario consumers could be caught in a never-ending cycle of borrowing from payday loan companies.

Starting today, Ontario will allow payday loan firms to charge a maximum of $21 for every $100 borrowed.

The Ottawa-based Public Interest Advocacy Centre says that's an "astronomically high" rate that will do more to protect the payday loan companies than consumers.

21 The amount in dollars Ontario will allow payday loan companies to charge for every $100 borrowed.

Spokesman John Lawford says it works out to about 700 per cent annually for a 10-day loan, and predicts some people will end up taking eight or 10 such loans a year.

Lawford says most of the $2 billion a year borrowed from Canadian payday loan companies is done so by repeat customers who can't get ahead of their debts.

Manitoba allows companies to charge a maximum of $17 dollars per $100 borrowed, British Columbia and Saskatchewan allow charges up to $23, while Nova Scotia's maximum is $31 for every $100 borrowed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homeless youth go 'west': Study

The flashing billboards, splashing water fountains and shiny buildings that transformed Yonge Street in the last decade have pushed homeless youth into the nooks and crannies of downtown west of Spadina Avenue, a new study shows.

Research by Public Interest, Yonge Street Mission, and World Vision found that while 30 per cent of "street involved" youth still hang out in the downtown core, 25 per cent preferred the area from Dufferin Street to Spadina and south of Bloor Street because it has a better "vibe" than Yonge Street.

Karen Bach, the mission program officer at the Yonge Street Mission, said the shift west has never been documented until now.

She said the western side of downtown was traditionally a popular spot for so-called squeegee kids, but in the last decade, it has become home to runaway teens, punks and youth with nowhere else to turn.

The west end is kinder to homeless youth, said John Blake, who hangs out near the Parkdale Library on Queen Street, just west Dufferin Street. Blake, 25, is originally from St. John, N.B., where he bounced from one foster home to another. He moved to Toronto some five years ago and has mostly lived on the streets.

He used to be in the Yonge-Gerrard area but moved west. "People are generous here even in the recession. There are fewer cops and we don't get hassled too much. There are many, many of us here."

Sean Meagher, the president of Public Interest, said there is still demand on Yonge, but more outreach is needed to keep up with the drift west. "We need to keep up with mobility of youth with mobility of service."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Study recommendations

- Agencies should link youth with some form of housing and support system in their first three months on the street, and intensify efforts to help youth who have been homeless for less than two years.
- Services for immigrant youth should be designed to respond to their distinct needs.
- Prevention programs for 12 to 15 year olds should be on a national scale since so many youth end up in Toronto.
- Special attention should be paid to youth younger than 16 as their prospects for housing are worse.
- Shelters need less drama, noise and crises so youth will feel safer. Safety is correlated with school attendance and employment.

Rally **Climate for the people**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RE2Climate activists rally on King Street yesterday to take their message to the people. More coverage, pages 8, 12.

Coupon clipping goes high-tech

BARGAINS When Victor Wong spotted an extra $500 off an already discounted washer and dryer set, he knew it was a good deal and bought it on the spot.

He wasn't actively looking for the appliances, but they had been part of a wider search for items to set up house with his fiancée.

Like a growing number of Canadians, he had done most of his homework online, looking at comparison shopping sites and surfing for coupons to be redeemed either online or in stores.

"For me it's about finding the best price out there. I do my own research and then I like to find out where I can get the best price," says Wong, a late-20s office worker in a downtown bank tower.

Canada has become a nation of bargain hunters and one tool making it easier is the Internet.

The number of consumers visiting coupon and comparison-shopping websites has doubled this year, according to Google Canada. Some 60 per cent of Canadians said they planned to use coupons as part of their holiday shopping. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Luminato co-founder dies at 54

David Pecaut, who co-founded Toronto's Luminato arts festival, has died at the age of 54. Launched in 2007, Luminato features music, dance, art and theatre. According to various media reports, Pecaut died of cancer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arson suspected

140-year-old Whitby church damaged in fire

A church that has been part of a central Ontario community for more than 140 years has been heavily damaged in a fire authorities suspect may have been deliberately set.

Smoke could be seen pouring out of All Saints' Anglican Church in Whitby at around 5 a.m yesterday morning.

Durham police say by the time firefighters arrived on the scene, flames had overwhelmed the landmark, causing heavy damage to the building's structure.

It's also feared the fire may have destroyed about 90 Christmas hampers put together by the congregation for families in need.

Sgt. Nancy Van Rooy of Durham regional police says they are treating the blaze as suspicious due to evidence found at the scene.

The fire marshal's office has been called in to investigate if the blaze is arson, but officials say it is too early to draw any conclusions.

A caretaker at the church told CTV News that when he arrived at the scene yesterday morning, he saw a red gas can on the ground near the building.

Congregants of the church say the building has undergone significant renovations over the past year and there have been several incidents of vandalism in recent months.

Whitby Mayor Pat Perkins called the fire "devastating.

"It's a beautiful, historic building. It's been a landmark here for over 140 years and so to see this happen to it is just terrible," Perkins said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Firefighters use a ladder to approach the clock of the tower of All Saints' Anglican Church in Whitby. The steeple remains standing but the roof is nearly destroyed.

Magnotta's profits slip in 2009 Q3

WINE Increased marketing and advertising costs slashed Magnotta Winery Corp.'s third-quarter profits by 12 per cent despite slightly improved net sales, the company said yesterday.

The Toronto-area winemaker had net and comprehensive income of $812,205 or six cents a share for the three months ended Oct. 31. That's down from seven cents a share in the same quarter last year.

Its net sales rose to $7.4 million from $7.3 million.

The company's shares last traded Dec. 4 at $1.59 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Look younger, live longer: Study

HEALTH Those baby-faced people now have another reason to be smug: A new Danish study says looking young apparently means a longer life.

Research published online yesterday in the British medical journal BMJ suggests that people who look younger than their years also live longer.

In 2001, Danish researchers conducted physical and cognitive tests on more than 1,800 pairs of twins over age 70, as well as taking photos of their faces. Three groups of people who didn't know the twins' real ages guessed how old they were.

The researchers then tracked how long the twins survived over seven years.

GETTY IMAGES

Danish researchers have discovered a correlation between youthful looks and a longer life.

The experts found that people who looked younger than their actual age were far more likely to survive, even after they adjusted for other factors like gender and environment.

The bigger the difference in perceived age within any twin pair, the more likely it was that the older-looking twin died first.

They also found a possible biological explanation: People who looked younger also tended to have longer telomeres, a key DNA component that is linked to aging.

People with shorter telomeres are thought to age faster. In the Danish study, the more fresh-faced people had longer telomeres.

The authors said that perceived age, which is widely used by doctors as a general indicator of a patient's health, is a good biomarker of aging that predicts survival among people over age 70.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank denies helping investors hide wealth

FINANCE Canada's largest brokerage firm says it has always acted within the law, despite accusations by the Canada Revenue Agency that some of the firm's advisers helped clients dodge taxes by hiding wealth in the tiny principality of Liechtenstein.

The CRA has filed court documents indicating the agency is conducting audits involving Colin Ross, a former vice-president of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and other investment advisers at the firm.

Two affidavits filed by Russell Lyon, a CRA auditor in B.C., listed several RBCDS clients who had set up foundations in Liechtenstein that were managed through accounts at the firm's office in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The office would file tax forms for the account, but because the owner appeared as a foundation, capital gains and interest income from bonds were never reported.

The revenue agency has tried since 2007, with limited success, to obtain information from the firm about the investments made by Ross and other advisers on behalf of clients. It has twice asked federal judges to force the company to comply.

Lyon said in an affidavit filed in August that, based on ongoing audits, he believes there are other "Canadian taxpayer clients of RBCDS who also used Liechtenstein entities to hide investments and other income from the CRA."

He claimed that printed information was available to investment advisers at the firm to assist clients with offshore investments. He believes other advisers assisted Canadians in setting up the offshore accounts.

It's legal to invest outside of Canada, but it is illegal for individuals not to report the income to the CRA. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RBC statement

- RBC Dominion Securities CEO David Agnew said in a written statement that the firm complies with all Canada Revenue Agency requirements, adding "there has never been any allegation of wrongdoing on the part of RBC Dominion Securities in this matter."

Police looking for murder suspect

Police are searching for a suspect wanted for the first-degree murder of Kirk Matthews, 24, in an Etobicoke parking lot on Dec. 6. Eric Carty, 29, is black, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-8, 200 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. Police warn that he is dangerous. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Some Jewish women susceptible to both breast and ovarian cancers: Researchers

HEALTH All Jewish women should be offered DNA testing to determine if they carry a genetic mutation that dramatically raises their risk of developing both breast and ovarian cancer, a group of researchers says.

In a study published yesterday, researchers at Women's College Hospital in Toronto found that about one per cent of Jewish women in Ontario carry mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, yet more than half of those identified would be ineligible for DNA testing under current provincial guidelines.

Women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent (Jews of Eastern European origin) have a four to five times higher risk of carrying a BRCA mutation than the general population — and carriers have an 80 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 20 to 40 per cent chance of ovarian cancer in their lifetime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Testing

- Currently, women are only eligible for genetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 in Ontario if they have been referred by a physician due to a strong family history of the disease or have already been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer.

Man accused of matricide

A 26-year-old Toronto man accused of killing his church-going mother in their central Etobicoke apartment is to appear in court this morning, charged with second-degree murder.

John Boukhalfa, 26, was stopped by police just before midnight Sunday walking along Lakeshore Boulevard West at Windermere Avenue.

Police later went to an apartment on the seventh floor of a Toronto Community Housing building at 3725 Dundas St. W., at Scarlett Road, and say they found the body of 62-year-old Antonia Catherine Zammit "suffering from obvious trauma."

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A police officer stands guard over apartment 712. A woman was killed in the apartment in the building at 3725 Dundas St. W. in the Dundas and Jane street area on the weekend.

An autopsy was to be conducted by today.

Neighbours described Zammit as a quiet but kindly woman who worked as a nursing assistant in a nursing home.

She had lived in the building for about 30 years and every Sunday worshipped at the nearby St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church.

One neighbour, who lives next door to Boukhalfa and Zammit, often heard arguments through the wall.

"They argued; they argued more than normal," said the neighbour, adding the "hefty" son is into sports and recently switched from recreational hockey to football.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Blue Jays **Wells meets his fans**

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Vernon Wells makes the day of 10-year-old fan Stephen McNeil during an autograph session at the Sears store at Yonge and Dundas yesterday afternoon. Hundreds lined up for a chance to meet the major-league star.

Sand safer than wood chips in playgrounds, study finds

SAFETY Children who fall off playground equipment and land on sand are far less likely to break an arm than those who take a tumble onto a wood-chip surface, a study has found.

In fact, the study by Toronto researchers concluded that the risk of arm fracture after such a spill is almost five times higher on engineered wood chips than on sand. Other injury types are also more likely with wood-chip surfaces.

"I think the difference between the performance of the sand and the performance of the wood-chip surfaces is actually pretty compelling," said lead author Dr. Andrew Howard, an orthopedic surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children.

"... If the purpose of putting the surface there is to prevent fractures — which it is — then I would really strongly consider using the sand surfacing as the preferred choice."
Dr. Andrew Howard

"So if the purpose of putting the surface there is to prevent fractures — which it is — then I would really strongly consider using the sand surfacing as the preferred choice."

The research, published online this week in the open-access journal PLoS Medicine, involved injury data collected from 28 Toronto schools following scheduled resurfacing of their playgrounds in 2003-2004. Nineteen schools chose wood chips, while nine went with granite sand.

The Sick Kids Hospital-York University study found there were 9.4 arm fractures per 100,000 student months with wood chips compared to 1.9 arm fractures per 100,000 student months with sand.

About half the arm fractures experienced by children involved the forearm bone near the wrist, while more than a quarter were upper arm breaks above the elbow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Oil Recovery forms strategic partnership with Norwegian firm

Toronto-based Canadian Oil Recovery & Remediation Enterprises Ltd. announced yesterday it has formed a strategic operating partnership in the Mideast and North Africa with Norwegian-based SAR AS. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal director to run for Toronto mayor

Rocco Rossi plans to sell some city assets, cut mayoral salary

The national director of the federal Liberal party has put his name on the ballot for the Toronto mayoralty race in October 2010.

Rocco Rossi has resigned as the party's top administrator and fundraiser, effective Dec. 31.

In announcing his candidacy yesterday outside Toronto City Hall, Rossi spoke in Spanish, French, Italian and English to declare: "I'm big, I'm bald and I've got bold ideas for the city."

Recalling his Italian-Canadian roots, Rossi said, "This city is phenomenal. It's given everything to my family. It's given us a lifetime of progressively better tomorrows, and that's what I want for every inhabitant of Toronto, whether they've been here for 100 years or 100 days."

"I'm big, I'm bald and I've got bold ideas for the city."
Rocco Rossi

Rossi used the launch of his campaign to announce he would sell off some city assets, including Toronto Hydro, to raise money.

"I don't always want to have to go hat in hand to the province and the feds and quite frankly ... don't count on a whole lot of money coming from them," he said.

The former businessman, aide to federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and head of the Heart and Stroke Foundation also pledged to cut his mayoral salary by 10 per cent and then freeze it for his four-year term should he win.

He encouraged city councillors to roll back the more than two per cent wage increase they received this year, saying politicians need to show "moral authority" before negotiating with municipal staff next time around.

"We have to lead by example" he said.

Rossi joins former Ontario Liberal cabinet minister George Smitherman and Toronto city councillor Giorgio Mammoliti in the race for Toronto's top job.

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory's supporters say he will register his candidacy for mayor in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rocco Rossi, centre, announces his Toronto mayoral run at Nathan Phillips Square Peace Garden yesterday, standing alongside his parents Domenico and Domenica.

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Four charged after series of robberies

CRIME Three men and a 16-year-old youth are facing 200 charges after a string of armed robberies across the GTA.

Police say 11 Chinese restaurants and a bank were robbed in a six-month spree that began last June. The suspects allegedly assaulted employees and customers before taking their cash and personal property.

Officers from Toronto and York Region uncovered a sawed-off shotgun, ammunition, a knife and cash when they searched five Toronto homes Thursday.

Jordan Wilson, 19, Gary Hanson, 20, Raseedi McKenley, 25, and a 16-year-old boy are facing robbery, firearms and property-related charges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wind allies with Blockbuster to sell phones with no contracts

WIRELESS New cellphone company Wind Mobile is aiming to win consumers away from major players Rogers, Bell and Telus and new rivals by offering smartphones and basic mobile phones without contracts.

Wind Mobile is expected to launch this week in Toronto and Calgary.

"We're going to go after the mainstream market," Globalive chairman and CEO Anthony Lacavera said yesterday.

Canadians want fixed-price plans and predictability when it comes to their monthly bills and "that's what we're offering," Lacavera said.

Wind Mobile announced yesterday that it has allied itself with movie and game rental chain Blockbuster Canada and will begin sales from outlets in Toronto and Calgary soon.

Toronto-based Wind Mobile considers itself Canada's fourth major wireless carrier after Rogers, Bell and Telus with a national presence.

However, Globalive's strategy isn't unique as the major players have similar no-contract plans and the other new cellphone companies are heading in the same direction.

Wind Mobile wants to meet the rapidly growing demand for smartphones and will let consumers buy them at full price — they can range from several hundred up to $800 — and have lower monthly bills since they would own the phones outright.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Special Olympics **Rising Up**

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Emily Boycott, a Special Olympics rhythmic gymnast and five-time world champion, is the centre of attention at the Elgin Theatre during rehearsals yesterday for Rising Up, a dance number commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics in Canada. It will be performed at tonight's Festival Gala fundraiser at the Westin Harbour Castle.

Archeological dig unearths thousands of artifacts
An archeological dig in Canada's oldest English settlement has unearthed more than 145,000 artifacts. The dig in Cupids, N.L., uncovered the remains of a house and storehouse built in 1610, among other things. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Lawsuit in works in elephant fight

An animals-rights group says it is pushing ahead with a lawsuit aimed at forcing zoo officials in Edmonton to move an aging female elephant. Zoocheck Canada had given the Valley Zoo a deadline to provide clear proof that Lucy the elephant is too sick to be moved to a California sanctuary where she can be with other elephants. But Zoocheck's Julie Woodyear says the zoo has provided nothing of substance, so the next step is to have the group's lawyers prepare a lawsuit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court strikes down security certificate

A federal judge has struck down a national-security certificate against a Syrian-born man arrested eight years ago on terror suspicions.

The ruling yesterday by Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley effectively frees Hassan Almrei and delivers the latest in a series of blows to the security-certificate law.

Almrei spent seven years in jail before moving to a Mississauga townhouse last February under strict release conditions, including an electronic tracking ankle bracelet.

The government had been trying to deport Almrei on a security certificate — a seldom-used provision of the immigration law for removing suspected terrorists and spies.

Hassan Almrei

The federal government has launched a review of the certificate system after acknowledging the teetering process needs fixing.

Mosley's ruling says there were reasonable grounds to believe Almrei was a security danger when detained in October 2001 following terrorist attacks on the United States, but there are no longer grounds to uphold that belief today.

The judge chastised the Canadian Security Intelligence Service for presenting an outdated view to the court "without considering whether the state of knowledge about the risks to national security posed by Islamic extremists had evolved" since Almrei was arrested.

The government had argued Almrei's travel, activities and involvement in a false-document ring were consistent with supporters of al-Qaida.

The judge said Almrei had undergone a transformation for the better since his days as an opportunist willing to peddle forged documents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SPORT Peter MacKay, Nova Scotia's representative in the federal cabinet, has delivered a series of cheques to improve recreational facilities in the Halifax area. MacKay, an avid rugby player, announced funding for 23 projects, including $300,000 for renovations to the Wanderers Grounds rugby field house in Halifax. The Halifax Regional Municipality will contribute an additional $400,000 while the Wanderers Amateur Athletic Club will kick in $200,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

Haiti's new prime minister arrives in Ottawa today with an unusual message: Haiti is open for business, and Canada is ready to help. Scan this barcode for the full story.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Quebec PQ resignation

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parti Québécois MLA for the riding of Vachon, Camil Bouchard, gestures as he announces his resignation as member of the National Assembly yesterday at the legislature in Quebec City. The 64-year-old cited the frustration of life in opposition as his reason for quitting — and he suggested elected members hold little influence over public policy.

Platinex surrenders claims to First Nations land for $5M

MINING Platinum exploration company Platinex Inc. has given up its claim to a disputed platinum project on First Nations land in northern Ontario in exchange for $5 million.

The company says it has an agreement with the Ontario government to resolve its litigation against the province and the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, or KI, First Nation over its Big Trout Lake exploration property.

Platinex was suing Ontario and the KI First Nation because KI was allegedly preventing the company from gaining access to its claims at Big Trout Lake.

The company claimed the province failed in its duty to consult with KI and also failed to warn Platinex that it wouldn't enforce the land claims.

Platinex was seeking more than $70 million from the province.

However, the company said yesterday it will drop the lawsuit and surrender all its mining claims and leases at Big Trout Lake. In return, Platinex will receive $5 million and a 2.5 per cent net smelter royalty interest in connection with any future development on the property.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Withdrawal

- The Ontario government says it will withdraw the KI lands from future staking and mineral exploration opportunities.

No wrongdoing in police shooting death of Cape Breton man, investigation finds

The RCMP says an investigation into the police shooting death of a Cape Breton man last year has found no wrongdoing. John Simon died after he was shot by an RCMP officer at a home on the Wagmatcook First Nation reserve Dec. 2, 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yes Men target Canada

U.S. pranksters mock climate stance, fool news agencies

Go Green

The infamous American pranksters known as The Yes Men launched an elaborate hoax yesterday, targeting Canada's stance in climate-change negotiations at Copenhagen.

The multi-pronged ruse tripped up a number of news organizations, including the Globe and Mail and the Huffington Post.

"The idea was to confuse the Canadian government, which set up a war room to positively spin their position in the debate even though everyone here knows that their position is a cruel joke," Yes Men member Mike Bonanno told the Associated Press.

The New York-based group's website states its goal is "Impersonating big-time criminals in order to publicly humiliate them."

The group is holding a news conference today in Copenhagen, but most of its chaos has already been achieved.

Past targets

- Past targets of The Yes Men have included former U.S. president George W. Bush, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Organization and Dow Chemical.

"Canada gets punk'd in Copenhagen," said a Huffington Post headline yesterday morning.

Unfortunately for the left-of-centre online newspaper, it, too, fell for part of the hoax.

The gambit began yesterday when a news release was issued by email under Environment Canada letterhead claiming Canada is dramatically revising its carbon emissions targets. It linked to a very real looking government website announcement.

A little more than an hour later, a second fake news release came out, criticizing the first as a fake and again quoting Environment Minister Jim Prentice.

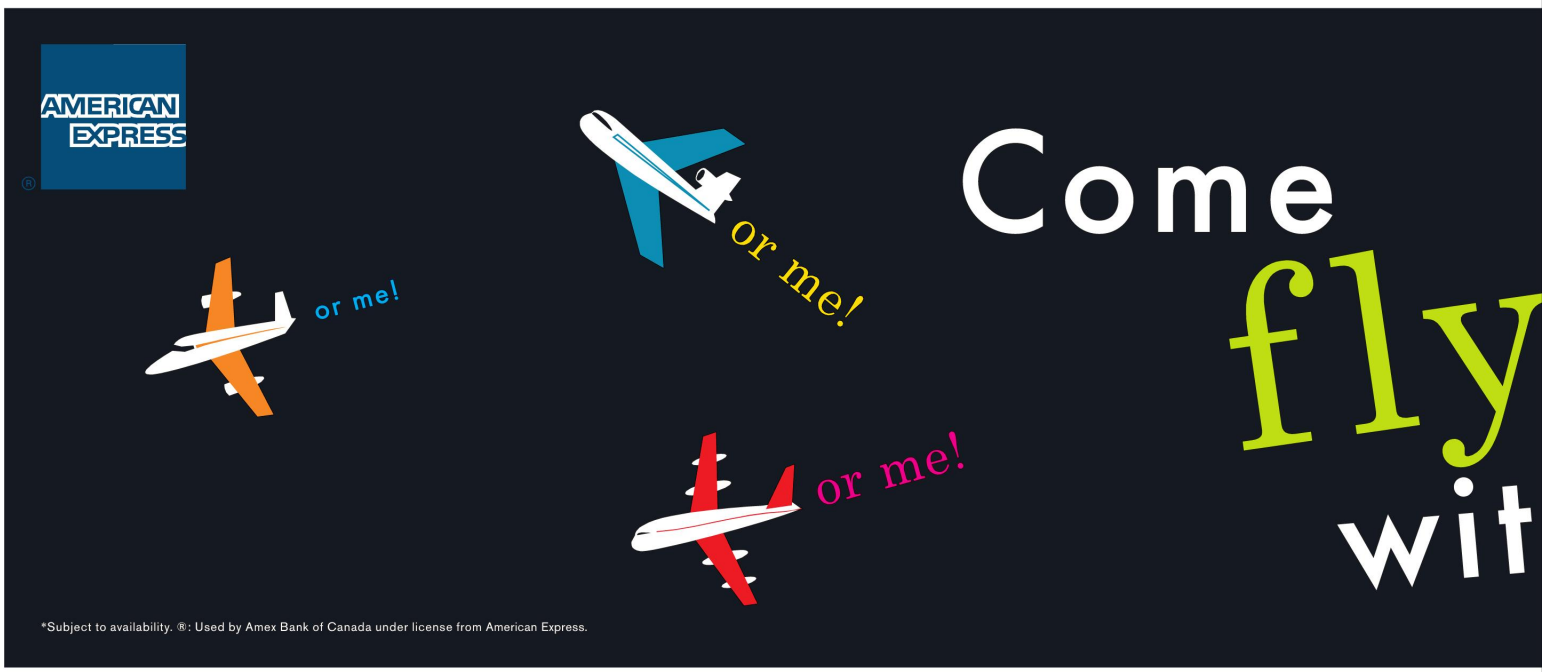
THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 12

Calgary **Cold bike courier**

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A bicycle courier navigates through traffic and frigid temperatures with a wind chill of –30C yesterday as he travels through downtown Calgary.



Alleged Ponzi scheme trial delayed

ALBERTA The next court date for two men accused of defrauding global investors out of millions won't be until March so their lawyers can wade through 80,000 pages of documents.

Gary Sorenson and Milowe Brost are both charged with fraud and theft over $5,000 in the alleged Ponzi scheme.

Police allege thousands of investors in Canada, the United States and overseas were swindled out of about $400 million between 1999 and December 2008.

Brost appeared in a Calgary courtroom with his lawyer yesterday, but refused to speak to the media as he left. Sorenson was not present.

His lawyer, Don MacLeod, said outside court that it will take a while to get through all the information in the case.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don MacLeod, lawyer for accused Ponzi scheme participant Gary Sorenson, speaks to the media yesterday in Calgary.

"We anticipate highly voluminous disclosure will be provided within the short-term future and it's going to require all counsel, including the prosecution, some considerable while to review that."

MacLeod said so much material isn't unusual in a commercial case. He pointed out that a single real estate transaction can involve up to 300 pieces of paper.

"Commercial cases generate paper. That's a simple truism."

Brost and Sorenson have been free on bail, and Sorenson's conditions were loosened slightly yesterday to allow him to more easily visit his sick mother in British Columbia.

The two men were charged Sept. 13. Brost was arrested at that time, but Sorenson was still at large and police said they believed he was living in Honduras.

He was arrested Sept. 29 after stepping off a plane at the Calgary airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. residential school settlement leaves 500 out

VICTIMS McArthur says he was five years old when he arrived at the Woodlands School in British Columbia, and the beatings started right away.

Over the years he endured many, along with icy baths and near drownings at the residential school for the mentally disabled in New Westminster.

The B.C. government announced a proposed settlement agreement yesterday in a class-action lawsuit brought by former residents of the school. The deal, if approved by the court, would cover approximately 1,100 former residents who were sexually and physically abused at the facility.

But McArthur is not among them.

Legislation holding the province liable for abuses suffered at its institutions wasn't passed until August 1974, meaning about 500 residents who attended Woodlands prior to that aren't eligible for the settlement deal.

It may be legally right, he said, but it's not morally correct.

"They're basically being told their suffering does not count," said McArthur, who is now 50 and spent five years at the school in total. "I believe the only fair way of settling this lawsuit is to treat everybody equally."

Compensation turns on the Crown Proceeding Act, which was enacted Aug. 1, 1974, and allows people to sue the provincial government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diplomat called home after allegedly spitting at cop
A Canadian diplomat has been called home from Tanzania after allegedly spitting at a police officer. Tanzania's foreign minister identified Jean Touchatte, a private secretary at the Canadian High Commission, as the official involved in the Dec. 9 incident. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Khalid concerns raised: MacKay

Defence minister says they can't remove Afghan governor

Defence Minister Peter MacKay says he raised concerns with officials in the Afghanistan government about a former governor of Kandahar who has been accused of personally torturing Afghans.

MacKay rejected a suggestion yesterday that Kandahar's former governor, Asadullah Khalid, could have been removed from office as early as 2006 if Canadian officials hadn't actively supported him for the next two years.

The assertion is contained in a two-year-old report by Richard Colvin, the diplomat who dropped a political bombshell on Ottawa last month when he testified that all Canadian-captured prisoners in Afghanistan were likely tortured by Afghan authorities.

Colvin's diplomatic memos on Khalid have not been made public by the Canadian government. But an uncensored version of the report was shown to The Canadian Press.

MacKay said he had not seen Colvin's report, but he insisted that he had complained about Khalid when he was Canada's foreign affairs minister.

"It's something that I raised directly with him," MacKay said after a funding announcement in Halifax. "I raised it with other officials in the Afghanistan government."

The minister did not specifically say whether he asked for Khalid's removal, saying only that he had expressed his "concerns." He was foreign affairs minister from February 2006 to August 2007.

MacKay also said there was little Canada could do about Khalid.

"Let's not forget, this is a sovereign country," he said. "This is a country where the president himself makes appointments of governors. While we can express concerns (and) we can put our views on the record, it's ultimately up to the government of Afghanistan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 13

Minister gets army being demoralized

DETAINEES Defence Minister Peter MacKay says he understands if Canadian soldiers are demoralized by revelations that some Taliban insurgents they captured and handed over to Afghan police are unaccounted for.

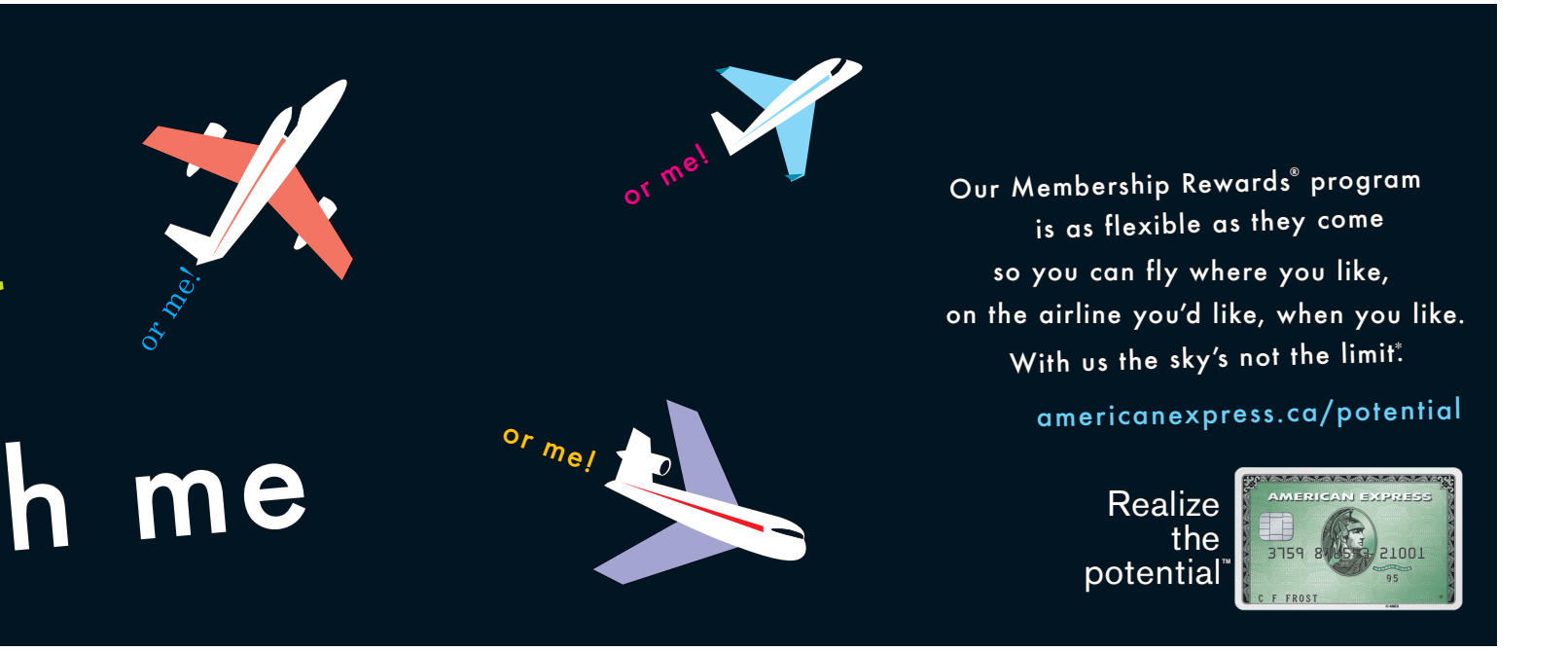
MacKay says the failure to properly keep track of detainees speaks to the need to continue working with the Afghan government to improve its justice system.

The minister, in Halifax for a funding announcement, says it's "inevitably demoralizing" to learn that insurgents captured for planting explosive devices or attacking civilians and soldiers have been let go with no record of what happened.

However, MacKay says he's received reports from Canadian commanders that show there have been substantial improvements within the prison system in recent months.

The Globe and Mail reports that Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon has acknowledged Afghan authorities failed to inform Canada of the fate of an unspecified number of prisoners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sydney, N.S. **Community mourns tragic death of boy**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family, friends, search personnel and his dog, Chance, look on yesterday as seven-year-old James Delorey's casket is taken from Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Whitney Pier, near Sydney, N.S. The child had wandered from his home following his dog last week and spent two nights lost in the woods. Delorey died later in a Halifax hospital.

Senators have better flight perks than MPs

SPENDING Senators have quietly expanded their opportunities to jet around the globe, courtesy of Canadian taxpayers.

A new policy, adopted last May, gives denizens of the upper chamber international travel privileges not enjoyed by their elected counterparts in the House of Commons.

It enabled Liberal Senator Lillian Dyck, for instance, to embark last month on a visit to her late father's ancestral home in China.

By senators' own admission, few politicians anywhere in the world are entitled to such a perk.

Details of the policy change are contained in transcripts of meetings of the Senate's bipartisan internal economy committee, which governs the upper chamber's operations. The transcripts are posted publicly on the Senate's website but have gone largely unnoticed until now.

They offer a fascinating — and often surprisingly frank — glimpse of senators' perception of their entitlements and their awareness of the potential for a public backlash.

For instance, during one meeting in October, Liberal Senator Paul Massicote railed against the fact that some senators habitually fly business class.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1,776.53
Liberal Senator Lillian Dyck billed Canadian taxpayers $1,776.53 for her air fare to China last month.

Police on lookout after major pot bust

Niagara police are looking for suspects after making a million-dollar marijuana seizure on the weekend. Officers found 1,100 marijuana plants — worth an estimated $1.1 million — Saturday after executing a search warrant at a house on Regional Road 20 in West Lincoln Township. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver braces for winter weather

SNOW Vancouver is bracing for its first major snowfall of the season and the city says it's prepared for whatever Mother Nature brings now, and during the Olympics in two months.

Environment Canada has issued a snowfall warning for Metro Vancouver, calling for up to 20 centimetres of snow and freezing rain in some spots by early today.

"Tuesday morning's commute is probably going to be trouble," said Environment Canada forecaster John McIntyre.

It will be the first major snowfall this season for the Vancouver area, which is better known for its oppressive rain during the winter months. However, last year the city was walloped by six winter storms in December alone that dumped nearly 90 centimetres of snow. That irregular weather left some cars trapped on residential streets for weeks and led to a spike in sales of ice scrapers and snowblowers.

"We are prepared for whatever Mother Nature is going to throw at us."
Murray Wightman, Vancouver street operations manager

This year, the city appears to be better prepared, in particular should winter strike in a similar fashion during the 2010 Olympics in February.

"We are prepared for whatever Mother Nature is going to throw at us," said Murray Wightman, Vancouver's manager of street operations. "We also have our Olympic plans in place."

The city has a total of 51 winter-fighting trucks of various sizes ready to salt, sand and clear the streets. That compares to about 43 road-worthy trucks last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mom pushes for helmet use on snowy slopes

Son was injured in P.E.I. snowboarding accident

Karen Condon's world turned upside down on Feb. 20, 2007, when a snowboard went through her son's skull, shattering it like a cracked egg shell.

At first, Condon was told her teenager just needed stitches — he had walked into the ambulance and seemed OK.

But the nurse from Bonshaw, P.E.I., said she knew things were bad when Ryan Condon, then 16, was transferred from the local hospital to Moncton, N.B.

There, he underwent four hours of brain surgery.

"The doctor said it was like when you crack an egg shell, the skull was in pieces," Condon said.

"Is my kid going to live or is he going to die? That's what I was thinking," she said of seeing her son after the operation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

A skier wearing a helmet watches as others finish a day on the slopes in March at Mont Tremblant. According to Safe Kids, international data show head injuries account for between three and 15 per cent of injuries to skiers and snowboarders, but make up 87 per cent of deaths.

Ryan Condon said he was trying to avoid a collision with a buddy on a hill near their home while snowboarding when his buddy's snowboard hit him on the left side of the head and entered his skull.

That's what friends have told him happened that day.

"I don't remember what happened from about four hours before to about 15 minutes after," said Condon, who is now doing well.

He wasn't wearing a helmet, and that's the biggest lesson he's learned.

Since then, his mother has become an advocate for legislation that makes helmet use for skiers and snowboarders mandatory — the same as for cyclists in some provinces.

"I don't want anyone going through what we had to go through," she said.

"We need to make sure our young people, or whoever's skiing and snowboarding, are protected." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Binding arbitration to settle issues between Teamsters and CN Rail

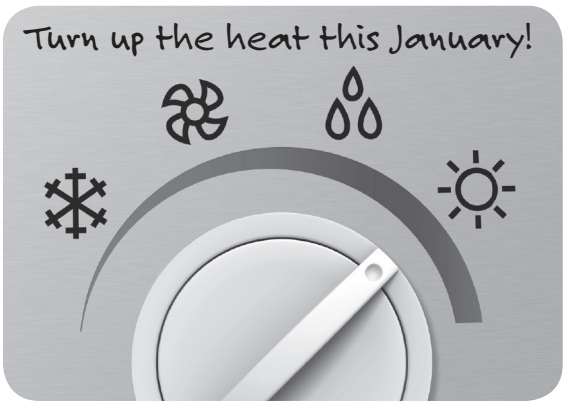
Unresolved wage and benefits issues affecting 1,700 Canadian National Railway train engineers will be submitted to binding arbitration after extended talks failed to achieve a deal.

The decision was made after renewed talks between the company and the Teamsters Canada union ended Saturday. The talks had been extended from a Dec. 10 deadline.

A strike by the engineers was settled Dec. 2 after the railway agreed to roll back an imposed wage and monthly mileage cap increases. The agreement was reached just ahead of federal legislation that would have forced the engineers back to work.

Both sides agreed, as part of the settlement, to send the wage and benefit issues to third-party arbitration if further talks failed to resolve them.

Labour Minister Rona Ambrose will appoint an arbitrator, who will have 90 days to hand in a final decision on a new agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Catalonia Gran Dominicus Cameleon Select ★★★★
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Mon, Jan 4, 11, 18, 25, Add taxes & fees $320

PUNTA CANA
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N.L. claims progress against poverty
The Newfoundland and Labrador government says there were 30,000 fewer people living below the poverty line in 2007 than in 2003. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ice fog triggers major smash-ups

Important Ottawa commuter route closed

Police and tow trucks sorted out a massive tangle yesterday after fog triggered a series of chain-reaction collisions involving about 60 vehicles on a main highway south of the capital.

Banks of ice fog ghosting over Highway 416 dropped visibility to zero during the morning commute.

Vehicles piled into each other in two separate pockets of wreckage, others skidded off the slick pavement into ditches or snowbanks. Only four minor injuries were reported.

"We ended up with close to 60 vehicles, including the vehicles in the ditches," said Const. Guy Provost of the Ontario Provincial Police.

He said it's fortunate there were no tractor trailers involved in either of the two wreck sites, which were about a half a kilometre apart.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

This was the scene of a multiple vehicle pileup yesterday on Highway 416 northbound just south of Ottawa. Early morning fog and ice is believed to have caused the accident.

The northbound lanes of the roadway, known as Veterans Memorial Highway, were shut completely and southbound traffic was cut to a single lane.

Cars that avoided the collisions were left standing in a massive traffic jam, which stretched for kilometres. Provost said the road would likely remain closed for several hours.

The highway, which runs nearly 100 kilometres between Ottawa and Prescott on the St. Lawrence River is a major commuter route for the capital.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sudanese protest broken up
A senior opposition leader says Sudanese police briefly detained over 100 demonstrators and used tear gas to disperse a pro-reform protest in the capital, Khartoum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Gore unveils alarming new data

Al Gore has told the UN climate conference that new data suggests that the Arctic polar ice cap may disappear in the summertime as soon as five to seven years from now. Clicking through a slide show yesterday in a packed side event, the former U.S. vice-president joined the foreign ministers of Norway and Denmark in presenting two new reports on melting Arctic ice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nations end boycott

Developing countries agree to go back to table over emissions

Poor countries ended a boycott of UN climate talks yesterday after getting assurances that rich nations were not conspiring to soften their commitments to cutting greenhouse gases, European officials said.

European Union environment spokesman Andreas Carlgren said informal talks resolved the impasse, which was started by African countries and backed by major developing countries, including China and India.

Rich and poor countries "found a reasonable solution," he said.

Developing countries agreed to return to all working groups that they abandoned earlier in the day at the 192-nation conference, said Anders Frandsen, a spokesman for conference president Connie Hedegaard.

The boycott had disrupted efforts to forge a pact on global warming and forced the cancellation of formal working groups, delaying the frantic work of negotiators trying to resolve technical issues before the arrival of more than 110 world leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, later this week.

The move was largely seen as a ploy to shift the agenda to the responsibilities of the industrial countries and make emissions reductions the first item set for discussion today.

"We are really prepared to discuss all issues in the negotiations. It means also absolutely all issues under the Kyoto Protocol," Carlgren said.

The developing countries want to extend the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which imposed penalties on rich nations if they did not comply with its strict emissions limits but made no such binding demands on developing nations.

Poor countries, supported by China, said Hedegaard had raised suspicion that the conference was likely to kill the Kyoto Protocol.

The United States withdrew from Kyoto over concerns that it would harm the U.S. economy and that China, India and other major greenhouse gas emitters were not required to take action.

China is now the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter.

There were also sporadic reports of vandalism across the city overnight. Police said 12 cars were set on fire, including three vehicles belonging to Danish power company Dong Energy.

Vandals also smashed windows and threw red paint at the headquarters of the Danish Immigration Service. It was not immediately clear whether those attacks were related to the conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A person dressed as Death, mounted on horseback and holding a scythe, rides outside parliament in Copenhagen yesterday. During the Greenpeace protest, four people on horses represented the impact of climate change.

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UN head warns of weak deal in Copenhagen

CLIMATE CHANGE United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned yesterday that the world risks having a weak deal or no deal on climate change if negotiators in Copenhagen leave the tough issues to global leaders to resolve.

The UN chief appealed to negotiators to redouble their efforts, stop posturing or blaming others, and reach a compromise before some 115 heads of state and government arrive later this week to try to "seal the deal" to curb global warming.

"Negotiation is very tough and difficult and complex," Ban said. "However, I'm reasonably optimistic that we will come out of Copenhagen with a deal that is fair, comprehensive, equitable and will be politically binding."

He warned, however, that time is running out, and he called on world leaders "to lead" and negotiators to work together and "make a final push in this final stretch."

"If everything is left to leaders to resolve at the last minute, we risk having a weak deal — or no deal at all," Ban told reporters before flying to Copenhagen. "And this would be a failure of potentially catastrophic consequence."

"We can move toward a future of sustainable growth, or we can continue down the road to ruin."
Ban Ki-moon,
UN Secretary-General

Ban said there is strong support among the 192 UN member states for $10 billion US in fast-track, short-term funding to help developing countries deal with climate change starting in 2010, before a legally binding treaty is drawn up.

He said that in talks after arriving in Copenhagen he will be urging agreement on a longer-term and larger financial support package, up to 2020 and beyond, to help developing nations cope with global warming. He did not give any figures.

"Seldom in history has a choice been so clear," Ban said.

"We can move toward a future of sustainable green growth, or we can continue down the road to ruin."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GUNS The U.S. Supreme Court has turned away a new challenge to a 2005 law that gives gun manufacturers immunity from lawsuits from shooting victims. The justices yesterday refused to hear an appeal from Hector Adames Jr. to revive his lawsuit against the Beretta U.S.A. Corp. over the accidental shooting death of his 13-year-old son.

EMAILS Computer technicians have found 22 million missing White House emails from the administration of former U.S. president George W. Bush, according to two groups that are settling lawsuits they filed over the failure by the Bush White House to install an electronic record keeping system. The recovered emails — located by White House contractors — will now become part of the archives at the National Archives and Records Administration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai gets shot in arm from rich neighbour

DUBAI Oil-rich Abu Dhabi pumped $10 billion US into its indebted neighbour yesterday, sending stocks soaring and sparing Dubai and the rest of the Emirates federation the humiliation of an imminent default by one of the struggling Arab boomtown's star companies.

The bailout was about more than petrodollar transfers from one United Arab Emirates sheikdom to the other. Dubai officials also seized on the news to try to repair damage done by weeks of uncertainty stemming from their unwillingness to fully stand behind Dubai World as the conglomerate looked to restructure some of its $60 billion in debts.

Dubai authorities are also scrambling to reshape the business hub's battered image, vowing that the city-state is committed to "transparency, good governance and market principles." Standard&Poor's, which along with other credit rating agencies has aggressively cut its outlook on Dubai state-run companies, called yesterday's move "a step towards rebuilding confidence." But it warned that the government's ability to bail out other firms remains uncertain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Conference hopes to be a start at reining in corruption
Afghan President Hamid Karzai convenes a three-day conference on corruption today — a gathering organizers hope will at least produce public acknowledgment that Afghanistan's government runs on bribery, graft and favouritism that fuels the Taliban insurgency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GIUSEPPE ARESU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A vendor in a souvenir shop in Milan yesterday holds a statuette of Milan's Duomo gothic cathedral, similar to the one which hit Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

Berlusconi remains in hospital

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi is in pain and will remain hospitalized until at least today with a fractured nose and two broken teeth from an attack by a mentally disturbed man who hit him in the face with a statuette, doctors and aides said.

The attack shocked Italy, already gripped by a tense political climate and highly polarized between Berlusconi's supporters and his critics. It also raised questions about the security surrounding the premier. A government official said he expected the premier's protection to be tightened, as security officials held an emergency meeting.

The 73-year-old Berlusconi was rushed to the San Raffaele hospital in Milan with his face covered in blood after the attack Sunday. The attacker, a 42-year-old man with a history of psychological problems, has been arrested. After a night of questioning at a police barracks, the man was moved to the San Vittore prison in Milan, the ANSA news agency said. Police have identified him as Massimo Tartaglia.

The premier had to scrap some plans, including a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Rome tomorrow, his office said. The attack also put at risk Berlusconi's participation at a UN climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he was scheduled to travel on Thursday.

Berlusconi's entry into politics has further polarized a society that is traditionally divided into fiercely opposed factions. Along with widespread solidarity for the premier, groups praising Berlusconi's assailant mushroomed on Facebook in the aftermath of the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deployment will take time: General

AFGHANISTAN The second-highest ranking U.S. general in Afghanistan said yesterday the planned rapid escalation of American troops would take longer than expected to carry out, indicating it will probably be nine to 11 months before they are all in place.

Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez said during a briefing in Kabul that the slower schedule results from the logistical challenges the military faces in bringing in so many forces so quickly. In launching a 30,000-troop surge, the Obama administration had initially said it expected that all of troops would be in place within six months.

President Barack Obama had not cited that figure directly, saying in his Dec. 1 speech that the troops would "deploy in the first part of 2010 — the fastest pace possible — so that they can target the insurgency."

Military officials had already been hinting broadly in recent weeks that the escalation might take longer, but Rodriguez' comments indicated that the notion of a six-month rapid escalation was not realistic and that reality is now setting in.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulk in summer

- U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates has said the bulk of the new forces will be in place this summer.

Two sentenced in terror aid plot

ATLANTA Two men were each sentenced to more than 10 years in prison yesterday for plotting to aid terrorists by sending home-made videos of Washington landmarks overseas and travelling abroad to try and turn anti-American rhetoric into action. Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, 23, was sentenced to 17 years, while Syed Haris Ahmed was sentenced to 13 years on a charge of conspiring to support terrorist groups.

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China cancels meeting to halt Iran's nuclear program

An upcoming meeting by five world powers on trying to curb Iran's nuclear program has been cancelled at China's request, senior officials from three of the countries involved said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BOSNIA Despite resistance from Serbs who want more independence, Bosnia's top international official said yesterday he has extended the mandate of foreign judges and prosecutors at Bosnia's top court. Bosnian Serbs quickly replied that they would not obey the order. Bosnia's State Court deals with war crimes, organized crime and terrorism, which have plagued the country since the 1992-95 civil war

FRANCE Fragments of an ancient wall painting that caused a feud between Egypt and the Louvre Museum are heading home. Egyptian officials said the artifacts had been stolen in the 1980s — chipped from the tomb's walls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippine troops tracking down Muslim guerrillas

ATTACK About 2,000 troops fanned out on a southern Philippine island yesterday to search for Muslim guerrillas blamed for a deadly attack on a jail as well as 31 inmates who escaped.

Troops killed one fugitive from the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, while another inmate surrendered, a senior military commander said.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino blamed the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front for Sunday's raid on the Basilan provincial jail. He demanded the group surrender 10 guerrillas who escaped or helped in the assault that killed a jail guard and one of the attackers. The main rebel group, which last week resumed peace talks with the government, denied any role but said at least one member who joined the attack was killed.

About 70 gunmen used a sledgehammer and bolt-cutters to tear a hole in the concrete wall of the jail, which had 40 detainees, then barged inside. Five Moro rebels and 12 from the smaller Abu Sayyaf extremist group escaped.

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Iran to try U.S. hikers

Clinton rails against 'unfounded' charges

Iran said yesterday it would try three Americans jailed since crossing the border from Iraq in July, a step certain to aggravate the U.S. at a time when Tehran is locked in a standoff with the West over its nuclear program.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki did not say when proceedings would begin or specify the charge other than to say the Americans had "suspicious aims." In November, however, authorities accused the Americans of spying.

In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Iranian move was "totally unfounded" and appealed anew to authorities in Iran to release them.

"We consider this a totally unfounded charge," she told reporters. "There is no basis for it. The three young people who were detained by the Iranians have absolutely no connection with any kind of action against the Iranian state or government. In fact, they were out hiking and, unfortunately, apparently, allegedly, walked across an unmarked boundary," she said.

There are concerns in the U.S. that Iran could use the three, arrested July 31, as bargaining chips in talks over its nuclear program or in seeking the return of Iranians they say are missing.

The Americans — Shane Bauer, 27, Sarah Shourd, 31, and Josh Fattal, 27 — were detained by authorities after crossing an unmarked border from northern Iraq. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHON MEKERESEU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran said yesterday it would try Americans Josh Fattal, above, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd, who were detained by Iranian authorities after crossing an unmarked border from northern Iraq in July.

Teen gets 30 years behind bars for gang rape, beating

A teenager who took part in the 2007 gang rape of a Haitian immigrant and the beating of her young son has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. Avion Lawson, 17, pleaded guilty and testified against three other suspects, who have all received life in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, right, greets crowds yesterday.

Hamas vows not to lay down arms

Hamas mobilized tens of thousands of its supporters yesterday for an anniversary rally meant to show the militant Islamic organization has not lost support despite Israel's devastating military assault on Gaza a year ago.

The crowd responded with chants of "We won't recognize Israel" to a fiery speech by Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who said the movement scored a "divine victory" against the Jewish state and will not lay down its arms.

Despite the defiant words, Hamas has sharply curtailed rocket fire on Israeli border towns since last winter's Israeli offensive, which inflicted heavy losses on the militants.

And, in a departure from last year's rally, Hamas did not taunt Israel over the soldier it is holding captive, Sgt. Gilad Schalit, whom the militants hope to trade for hundreds of Palestinians held by Israel. It appears Hamas didn't want to jeopardize the prospects of a German-mediated prisoner swap.

Hamas was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising against Israel. It seized Gaza from Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007 and has since tightened its control despite a crippling border blockade by Israel and Egypt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Incumbent prevails in Romanian election recount

DECISION The constitutional court yesterday declared Traian Basescu winner of Romania's disputed presidential election.

The court ruled Basescu had won a second term as president after days of uncertainty following a Dec. 6 run-off vote the opposition claimed was rigged. Election authorities finished re-examining some 138,000 voided ballots yesterday, and decided the outcome of the election was unchanged.

Basescu won 50.33 per cent of the vote to defeat former foreign minister Mircea Geoana, who won 49.67 per cent. Geoana conceded defeat and wished Basescu good luck in his five-year mandate.

However, Geoana continued to insist the elections had been rigged and the court had ignored "extremely clear evidence." Geoana's Social Democrats filed a motion to the court last week alleging fraud. They claimed they had evidence of ballot-stuffing, multiple voting and widespread vote-buying, and asked for new elections to be held.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kurdish legislators resign in protest

PARTY BUSTED A Kurdish party disbanded by Turkey's top court because it was accused of having ties to rebels said yesterday that its lawmakers will resign from parliament, possibly triggering interim elections.

"We don't think our struggle for peace will be understood even if we stay in the parliament," said Ahmet Turk, leader of the Democratic Society Party.

The court decision triggered violent protests by Kurds across the country.

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Radio death threats target Argentine leader

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez received death threats over a radio frequency while commuting by helicopter. Someone interrupted the pilot's communication to say, "Kill her," according to a recording broadcast on television yesterday. Officials are treating the threats as serious. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.C. law limiting life terms lets convicted killers go free

GOOD BEHAVIOUR A judge yesterday ordered the release of two convicted murderers in North Carolina, a blow to the state's efforts to keep inmates from walking free under a 1970s law that limited life terms.

Alford Jones, 55, and Faye Brown, 56, are the first two convicts to win a court order for release by arguing time credits for good behaviour cut years off life terms that were limited to 80 years when they were convicted. Superior Court Judge Ripley Rand issued written orders that the pair be released by 5 p.m. yesterday. The state attorney general's office plans to appeal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stubble whammy **Shaving record**

RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This man was one of 1,868 who shaved simultaneously yesterday in Mumbai, India, in an attempt to set a world record.

Plane partly blamed in Buffalo crash

Airline says pilots lacked warning

Lack of adequate low-speed warnings in the Bombardier Q400 contributed to last February's crash in Buffalo, N.Y., that killed 50, according to the operator of the plane, Colgan Air.

In a submission to the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board on Dec. 7, the regional airline said the probable cause of the crash was the pilots' "loss of situational awareness" and failure to follow training and procedures.

But it pointed to four contributing factors, two of which involved the Montreal-based aircraft manufacturer.

Colgan said the cockpit warning system failed to adequately advise pilots when the speed was set below the calculated stall warning speed.

The airline also pointed to the lack of adequate warning in the turboprop's flight and operating manual regarding the effect of setting a non-ice reference speed during approach and landing.

The remaining two contributing factors were related to human error. They included the crew's failure to follow proper procedures in their response to a warning device called the "stick shaker."

Bombardier declined to comment on Colgan's submission, but its experts appeared at a hearing last May to answer questions.

"We are precluded from any such comment until such time as the NTSB has completed its investigation of the matter," said spokesman John Arnone.

The Air Line Pilots Association agreed the plane didn't have, nor was it required to have, systems that would alert pilots when "air speed was abnormally low." The association blamed the airline for failing to train the pilots for the conditions they faced. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Factors in crash

Colgan Air reported the following factors in February's plane crash in Buffalo:

1 Cockpit warning system did not advise pilots that speed was set too low.
2 Manual didn't warn about effect of setting non-ice reference speed during approach and landing.
3 Crew did not respond properly to "stick shaker," a warning device.
4 "Non-pertinent" conversation by crew during descent and approach.

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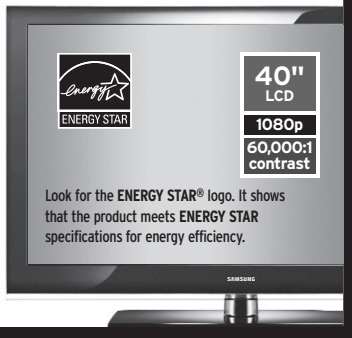

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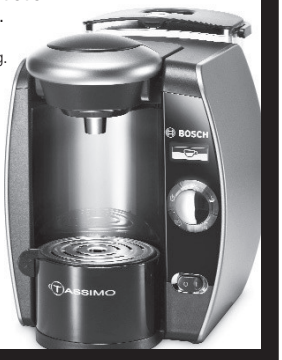

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Comment

What does future hold for MacKay?

NationalReport
Lawrence Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

In the Afghan detainee controversy, Peter MacKay's stonewalling and roughhouse takedown of a diplomat was characteristic of this government whenever it is accused of anything. Did the defence minister have any choice but to respond in the way he did?

If, in fact, he had a free hand and chose the stealth route, then yes, MacKay should resign. If his line of defence was dictated from above, then it becomes a tougher call. As he made clear yesterday, he will not step down. But in the rumoured cabinet shuffle, he should be moved out of defence.

MacKay is one of several holders of big portfolios who has stumbled. He is part of a starless cabinet, an unlit galaxy except for the one and only, the prime minister himself.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice has been beaten up for his inactivity on global warming, inactivity that sees this country collecting fossil-of-the-year awards. But has the foot-dragging been his doing? Apparently, it's the PM who has prevented him from taking swifter action. Before environment, Prentice held the thankless Indian affairs portfolio, where his main task was to ditch the Kelowna accord. Considered a future leadership contender, he has hardly been able to burnish his credentials.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has had a better year than ones previous. But he has been dragging around a lot of chains — the income trust flip-flop, the disastrous fiscal update of last year and his repeated underestimating of the federal deficit. Again the question needs to be asked — how many of the calls were his own?

The prime minister has some breathing room on the political calendar and could move one, all or none of the above. Strong performers like Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and Trade Minister Stockwell Day could be promoted. Long-serving Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, who is to the right of Sarah Palin, could be moved as well as Transport Minister John Baird, the Commons court jester who specializes in drubbing opponents. Taking him on is like arguing with a brass band.

One likely move will see Maxime Bernier, the former foreign minister who resigned after getting caught up in the biker-girl, lost-documents scandal, brought back to cabinet because he is popular in Quebec.

But no one is too excited about any pending changes. Usually, cabinet shuffles are a big deal. Not in Harperland. In his cabinets no one gets to be a heavyweight. They all bob around, waiting for the word from on high.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Afghan detainees: A moral dilemma

InStep
Christine Williams

After the recent bout of public scrutiny over accusations by former senior Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin about Ottawa's indifference toward the torture of detainees in Afghanistan, we need to recall that, in 2005, former prime minister Paul Martin gave the thumbs up to then-defence minister Bill Graham to negotiate a detainee transfer agreement with the Afghanistan government.

At the root of this ongoing dilemma of how to process these detainees is our high regard for human rights: The golden element that keeps a robust flock of immigrants and refugees coming our way. Human rights is the cornerstone of our democracy. For this reason, we hold our authorities to a higher moral standard, having delegated ourselves the responsibility of being international role models, but we need to do so with understanding.

For instance, most of us cannot fathom the routine atrocities committed by many foreign regimes such as the Taliban, such as: Shooting eight boys to death because they laughed at Taliban fighters, mutilations, beatings, gang rapes and the torture of women and children; burning entire families alive. More frightening is that these atrocities represent the vision these barbaric insurgents hope to export to other parts of the world, with their deep-seated hatred and opposition to Western values.

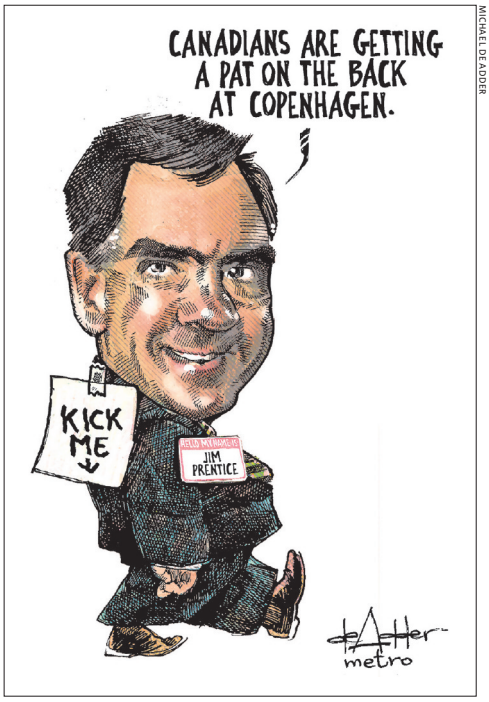
Based on these facts, we need to appreciate that justice would be better served if groups like Amnesty International would up the ante in renouncing the heinous deeds of an enemy that has gone so far as to hide among civilians and disguise its members as emergency and media personnel.

These unlawful combatants are not protected by the Geneva Conventions, even though there are those who argue they should be. And they most certainly do not fall under our Charter of Rights of Freedoms. However, Justice Anne McTavish did rule that Afghan detainees do have rights under their own constitution and international law.

Given the prior floods of accusations about the Western lack of respect for the sovereignty of foreign governments, how do we justify bypassing Afghanistan's own rules of engagement, albeit primitive? According to Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, progress is happening as Afghan authorities are being receptive to Canada's advice on how to treat detainees.

We need to exercise patience and support of ongoing efforts to work out a moral solution concerning these detainees.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.



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Mining profits down for Orvana Minerals

Orvana Minerals Corp., a Toronto-based mining company with projects in Bolivia, Spain and the U.S., reported almost 50 per cent lower profits for 2009 as revenues declined. It booked net income of $13.4 million US, down from its prior-year earnings of $25.7 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Pension reforms delay likely?

Federal and provincial governments are trying to hash out a way to encourage Canadians to save more for retirement.

But getting the different levels of government to agree on how best to do that, and to hatch a plan without alienating the powerful financial-services sector, will likely take far more than the day and half set aside for such matters in Whitehorse, Yukon, this week.

"This may not be an immediate crisis that we're facing in Canada, but it's one that is coming at us," Colin Hansen, British Columbia's finance minister, said in an interview.

"This may not be an immediate crisis that we're facing in Canada, but it's one that is coming at us."
Colin Hansen, B.C. finance minister

The global financial crisis of the last two years has exposed the weaknesses of the country's pension system. Now, there's a growing consensus that major reforms need to be made, to ensure that the savings of Canadians — especially young people — have enough money when they retire. Recent studies have shown that almost two-thirds of working Canadians have no workplace pension plan. And almost a third of Canadian families have no retirement savings whatsoever.

Plus, the percentage of Canadians covered by defined benefit pension plans has declined rapidly, as financially strained companies switch to less cumbersome defined contribution plans — at higher risk for employees.

At the same time, with the population aging quickly, more and more people are becoming dependent on their increasingly inadequate nest eggs.

In Whitehorse, Hansen wants to see all provinces and Ottawa clearly recognize that reforms are necessary. But he also wants to see a timeline for discussions and, if possible, an agreement that the Canada Pension Plan is a success story that should serve as the cornerstone of reforms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interest rates to go up in 2010, says Royal Bank

The Royal Bank says Canadians can expect to be hit by higher interest rates in the second half of next year and in 2011.

Royal Bank economists say the Bank of Canada will be among the next group of central banks to move off floor-low rates, with the Canadian bank's overnight rate finishing 2010 at 1.25 per cent.

And RBC economists say the trend-setting rate could rise to as much as 3.5 per cent in 2011.

The bank rate has been at 0.25 for most of 2009, a rate that is encouraging borrowing but also raising concerns that Canadians may be overextending themselves. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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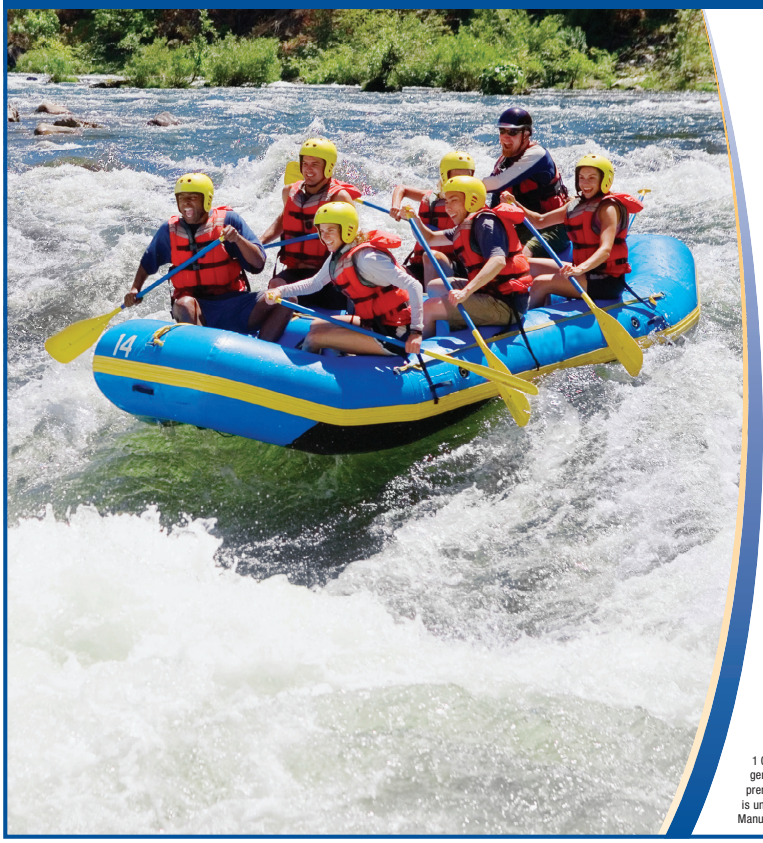

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Interest rates/Savings accounts (Please check bank websites as some rates require minimum account balance)

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Your Money

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Most memorable gifts

AlisonOnMoney

A few days ago I was thinking about the most memorable gifts I've ever received. Interestingly, there wasn't a purchased one on the list. Here are some of my top picks to give you a few ideas as the final countdown to Christmas begins.

A few days after my husband and I lost a beloved dog, a friend dropped off a gift basket for us that cheered us up immeasurably.

She's a single working parent with two young boys so money isn't exactly plentiful. But everything was perfect. There were hand-picked flowers, several jars of jam made by one of her boys and some biscuits for our other dog. It brought tears to our eyes.

My sister works in theatre — not exactly the richest field — so she paints lovely cards that I use year round and I always receive the nicest comments when I send them out.

A dear friend gave me homemade body scrub last year, smelling wonderfully of honey and lavender.

She's a busy woman with a television career and I appreciate the time she spent in her kitchen making my gift.

My husband's late godfather specialized in making electrical fixtures out of found items. Every Christmas he gave us a whimsical lamp that cost him nothing but time.

When my husband was an impoverished college student he made me a sand-cast candle in the colours of the season with cute decorations imbedded in it. No diamond ring could have won my heart more quickly than his slightly tilted, red wax tower.

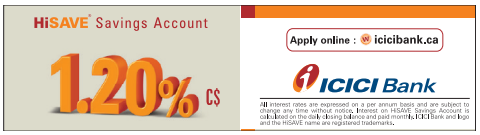
Note to guys: Forget the mall. Make something for your best beloved and she will swoon with surprise and delight.

The secret to thoughtful but inexpensive presents is putting a little effort into the conception and execution of the gift. The ads are screaming 10 shopping days left until Christmas! Consider instead 10 thinking and doing days left until Christmas.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

Alison's Money Rule:

- With gifts, the thought really does count. Dip into your time instead of your wallet and the results will be inexpensive and memorable.



RRSP season looming

Investing

What should investors think this RRSP season?

If interest rates rise next year, anyone with loans tied to the prime rate (variable loans) will see higher interest rate charges.

Regarding investments themselves, anyone who is in a fixed rate security like a bond, could see the price of that security fall. Bond funds or other managed products that invest in fixed income securities could see prices fall. Please remember for those that own individual fixed income securities like individual government or corporate bonds, your pricing will be affected as well but if you own these products to maturity, you will get your original investment back (face value).

A slow interest rate increase should not influence fixed income products too much at first. The environment for this year will still be great for individual investors to grow their portfolios.

Allan Small can be reached at asmall@dundeesecurities.com The views expressed are not necessarily those of Dundee Securities

On the web

Money Matters: Henry Choo Chong discusses the tax implications of charitable donations for 2009. Visit metronews.ca/moneymatters to read his column.

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Northgate Shopping Centre
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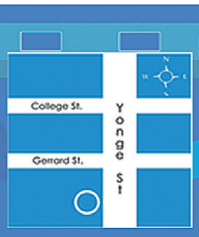

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Lackey has deal with Red Sox: Reports

John Lackey and the Boston Red Sox have reached a tentative agreement on a five-year contract, according to media reports. Lackey, one of the top pitchers on the free-agent market after eight seasons with the Angels, was in Boston for a physical yesterday, according to reports. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Ariza suspended

Houston Rockets forward Trevor Ariza was suspended for one game by the NBA after he was ejected from a game in Toronto for throwing a forearm at Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan. The league suspended Ariza yesterday and he will sit out tonight's game against Detroit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

The last billion-dollar athlete?

Tiger's troubles may scare companies away from endorsement deals

The self-destruction of Tiger Inc. is calling into question whether companies can afford the risk of signing multimillion-dollar contracts with celebrity endorsers.

Done right, celebrity endorsers can help boost both the sale of products and their maker's image. But Woods' hasty and stunning downfall shows how quickly things can sour when a superstar athlete's life choices are exposed in a negative light by today's real-time tabloid news culture.

Woods and his advisers spent years cultivating a good-guy image to go along with his winning ways, which is how he became sports' first — and perhaps last — $1-billion US earner. It is also what has made his fall even more jarring.

"The billion-dollar athlete might be a thing of the past," said Laura Ries, president of marketing consulting firm Ries&Ries. Companies "want a safe choice and it seems like there's almost no safe choice out there."

Most of Woods' $100 million in annual earnings came not from tournament winnings but from companies like Accenture that wanted to be associated with his persona. These image ads are the types that are least likely to endure. Ultimately, that could mean few other sports figures will follow in Tiger Woods' footsteps.

"There has to be trust and he's just taken a grenade to any kind of traditional agreement that you'd normally have," said John Sweeney, director of sports communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Accenture severed ties with Woods Sunday, two days after he announced an indefinite leave from golf to work on his marriage. It said he was "no longer the right representative" of the company's values.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How Woods' sponsors have reacted

- **DROPPED:** Consulting firm Accenture dropped the athlete Sunday.
- **DISTANCED:** Swiss watch maker Tag Heuer, a unit of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton, said yesterday it is assessing its options. Gillette said over the weekend that it won't air ads for its Fusion razors that include Woods. AT&T said it is evaluating its relationship with the golf superstar.
- **STILL SUPPORTING:** Nike Inc. and EA Sports have said they plan to continue their relationships with Woods.

Beauchemin lifts Leafs to 3-2 win over Senators

NHL

Senators 2 Leafs 3

AT

Francois Beauchemin scored the winning goal as Toronto edged the Ottawa Senators 3-2 last night, giving the Maple Leafs their first win in three attempts this season over their provincial rivals.

Phil Kessel scored a beautiful goal for Toronto, beating Ottawa goalie Brian Elliot with a sharp shot to the short side on a breakaway. Jason Blake also scored for Toronto, while Mike Fisher and Jason Spezza replied for Ottawa.

Vesa Toskala made 22 saves, helping the Leafs (12-14-7) win their fourth consecutive home game in front of 19,315 fans at Air Canada Centre. Toskala has now won four of his last five starts, including four straight at ACC.

Beauchemin's game-winner came just more than six minutes into the third period after Spezza had pulled the Sens even on a power play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ABELIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Toronto's Vesa Toskala makes a save on Ottawa's Nick Foligno last night at the Air Canada Centre.

Sports in brief

OLYMPICS A coach on Canada's long-track speedskating team is under investigation in the Netherlands after allegations of trying to buy a spot in the 5,000-metre race at the 2006 Olympics. Ingrid Paul and Dutch skater Gretha Smit have been accused of offering Poland's Katarzyna Wojcicka 50,000 euros ($77,800) for her starting spot in the race.

SOCCER New Toronto FC coach Preki has started putting his stamp on the MLS team. Leo Percovich, who worked with Preki at Chivas USA as goalkeeper coach, joined TFC yesterday as an assistant coach. On the way out is strength and conditioning coach Paul Winsper.

BASEBALL St. Louis Cardinals third baseman David Freese has been arrested in St. Louis County on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Police in Maryland Heights, Mo., gave details of the arrest yesterday. Freese was stopped at 2:40 a.m. CT Saturday for a traffic offence, then given a sobriety test.

LACROSSE Colin Doyle is back with the Toronto Rock. Doyle confirmed last night that he has been acquired by Toronto in a National Lacrosse League trade with Washington. Inside Lacrosse reports that Lewis Ratcliff, Tyler Codron and Joel Dalgarno will go to the Stealth.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Matsui an Angel?
A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press that Hideki Matsui and the Los Angeles Angels have reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract worth about $6.5 million US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argonauts dump coach

The Toronto Argonauts pulled the plug on the Bart Andrus experiment yesterday.

The CFL club fired its head coach after posting a league-worst 3-15 record this season. The move comes less than a year after the Argos raised eyebrows by hiring Andrus, 51, even though he had no previous CFL coaching experience.

President Bob Nicholson, who wasn't with the club when it hired Andrus in January, wouldn't say that decision was a mistake, even though Toronto finished the year losing its final eight regular-season games. But Nicholson added the organization erred in not insisting Andrus hire assistants with CFL experience.

"We should've been more insistent upon that," he said. "We gave him a lot of flexibility bringing a non-CFL coaching staff in.

"Again, a lot of those guys worked very hard, they're great teachers. But they certainly had a lot lacking in experience that we probably should've had."

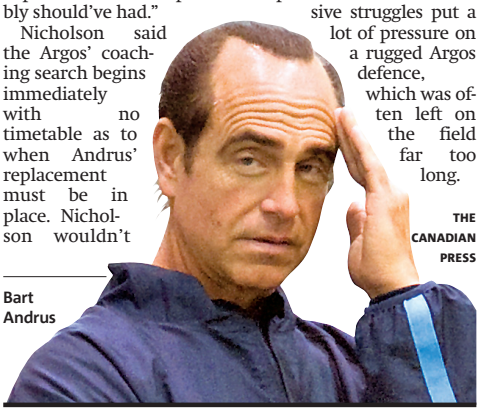
Nicholson said the Argos' coaching search begins immediately with no timetable as to when Andrus' replacement must be in place. Nicholson wouldn't divulge who is on the club's radar, but added that finding a coach with CFL experience is a priority.

"We gave him a lot of flexibility bringing a non-CFL coaching staff in."
Bob Nicholson, Argonauts president

Andrus started well enough, beating Hamilton 30-17 in his CFL coaching debut. And he showed a willingness to implement the Wildcat formation early on. But that seemed to change when Calgary turned an Argos miscue off the Wildcat into a touchdown in a lopsided 44-9 win July 17.

After that, Toronto's offence became less imaginative and more predictable, in large part to inconsistent play at quarterback with Kerry Joseph, backup Cody Pickett and youngster Stephen Reaves. The offensive struggles put a lot of pressure on a rugged Argos defence, which was often left on the field far too long.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Bart Andrus

Competition for two goalie spots heats up at junior selection camp

HOCKEY There was no question for team management who the four best 19-and-under goaltenders in Canada are, but a huge decision looms on who are the best two.

Jake Allen, Matt Hackett, Martin Jones and Olivier Roy are in a tight battle at the team selection camp for the two goaltender spots on the Canadian squad that will play at the world junior championship Dec. 26-Jan. 5 in Regina and Saskatoon.

Allen, of the Montreal Juniors, is the front-runner because of his greater national and international experience, but none of the other three can be counted out.

"They've been consistent throughout the year and, in such a short event, consistency is crucial," goaltending coach Ron Tugnutt said yesterday. "This is going to be a fight to the end for these guys."

Roy, of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, is the shootout king. The six-foot-four Jones, of the Calgary Hitmen, has the widest wingspan. And Hackett, of the Plymouth Whalers, has the best regular-season numbers among the four.

"We'll discuss them as a group," Tugnutt added. "We're in a good situation." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

OVERALL STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
d-Washington	33	20	7	6	118	94	46
d-New Jersey	31	22	8	1	91	68	45
d-Buffalo	30	19	9	2	81	65	40
Pittsburgh	33	22	10	1	105	87	45
Boston	32	16	10	6	84	80	38
Ottawa	32	16	12	4	92	96	36
Atlanta	30	16	11	3	96	88	35
Montreal	33	15	15	3	85	95	33
Florida	34	13	14	7	95	112	33
NY Islanders	33	12	14	7	84	107	31
Tampa Bay	32	11	12	9	77	94	31
Philadelphia	31	15	15	1	90	88	31
TORONTO	**33**	**12**	**14**	**7**	**97**	**116**	**31**
N.Y. Rangers	30	14	14	2	84	90	30
Carolina	32	7	19	6	77	117	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
d-Los Angeles	34	21	10	3	106	101	45
d-Colorado	35	19	10	6	103	99	44
d-Chicago	31	20	8	3	92	67	43
San Jose	34	19	8	7	111	92	45
Calgary	32	19	9	4	93	77	42
Phoenix	32	19	11	2	79	72	40
Nashville	32	18	11	3	83	88	39
Dallas	32	14	8	10	93	94	38
Detroit	32	16	11	5	89	87	37
Vancouver	32	18	14	0	101	84	36
Edmonton	32	15	13	4	98	100	34
Columbus	32	14	12	6	96	112	34
Minnesota	32	15	14	3	84	93	33
St. Louis	30	13	12	5	74	82	31
Anaheim	31	12	13	7	91	103	31

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SOL (shootout loss) column.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 3 Ottawa 2
Florida 7 N.Y. Islanders 1
Philadelphia 3 Boston 1
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers
Nashville at Columbus
Buffalo at Montreal
Phoenix at Detroit
Los Angeles at Vancouver

TODAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
OVERALL STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str
d-Boston	19	4	.826	-	10-0	W-10
d-Atlanta	17	6	.739	2	6-4	W-4
d-Orlando	17	6	.739	2	7-3	L-2
d-Cleveland	17	7	.708	2½	7-3	W-2
Miami	11	11	.500	7½	4-6	L-2
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	½	3-7	W-2
Detroit	11	12	.478	8	6-4	W-5
TORONTO	**11**	**15**	**.423**	**9½**	**4-6**	**W-1**
Charlotte	9	13	.409	9½	6-4	L-2
Indiana	8	13	.381	10	3-7	W-2
Chicago	8	14	.364	10½	2-8	L-1
New York	8	15	.348	11	5-5	W-4
Washington	7	14	.333	11	4-6	L-4
Philadelphia	5	18	.217	14	0-10	L-12
New Jersey	2	22	.083	17½	2-8	L-3

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 117 Golden State 101
Orlando 106 Indiana 98
Boston at Memphis
New Orleans at Dallas
Minnesota at Utah
Oklahoma City at Denver
Washington at L.A. Clippers

TODAY'S GAMES
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 10 p.m.

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Arizona at San Francisco

$21 million for research projects at uWaterloo, WLU

The Ontario government announced Friday $21 million for projects involving over 300 researchers at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Go small for a good education

According to an article on The Globe and Mail's website, the presidents of Mount Allison University, Bishop's University, Acadia University and St. Francis Xavier University weigh in on the emerging debate on undergraduate education in Canada. The presidents state that students who arrive at university with a less defined career path have the most to gain from a small, primarily undergraduate university, whose priorities include first-rate teaching in small classes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in brief

STUDENT ORIENTED MARKETING: An article in Friday's Globe and Mail takes notice of a trend in post-secondary institutions developing ad campaigns appealing to today's prospective students by taking into consideration their mindset, targeting them where they're at, and focusing on what kind of experience they would be provided on campus.

WOMEN'S STUDIES NAME CHANGE: Queen's University's senate has approved a proposal to change the name of the school's Department of Women's Studies to the Department of Gender Studies, effective Jan. 1. The new name reflects an ongoing shift as traditional women's studies heads towards a multi-faceted approach that incorporates racial, gendered, and sexual diversity.

ELS AND RETENTION BIG AT LAURIER: Wilfrid Laurier University has approved three projects for the $200,000 President's Innovation Seed Fund. One project will introduce ESL programming to WLU, another program will aim to increase retention rates by assisting first-year faculty of arts students who are struggling academically.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Why not Be a Santa for a Senior?

The greatest gift some will get this season is a smile on another's face

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

For many, this time of year is filled with holiday cheer. Friends, family and loved ones come together to celebrate the season, putting smiles on the faces they care about most.

For others, the holidays can be a reminder of just how lonely and isolated they are. It's with these people in mind that businesses and volunteers take to the streets to dedicate their time and effort to make the holiday season special for everyone.

The Be a Santa for a Senior Program, run all over the world by Home Instead Senior Care, works to spread holiday cheer to needy and isolated seniors in their communities.

Greg Bechard, of Home Instead Senior Care, says without programs like this many seniors would be forgotten at Christmas. He says it's easy to see how important it is to them when the gifts are delivered and presented in their homes.

"It's touching," he said. "It will put a lump in your throat. The real appreciation is that someone has taken the time to think about them during this busy time. It's a very emotional experience for everyone involved in the program."

The material gifts themselves, Bechard said, come in a distant second to the fact that for maybe just one day, the person who received it was remembered. He says most of the gift requests are simple items like gloves or deodorant.

"It's unfortunate we don't think about this all year," he said. "But it's nice to give back and share a small piece."

And share a small piece they do. Working with various retailers and non-profit community organizations across the country, regional lists are composed of seniors in need. These seniors could be in financial distress, isolated from their families or have no family at all.

With the help of various organizations, these seniors send in gift requests. The requests are, in turn, displayed on Christmas trees as ornaments — each personalized — at participating retail locations. Shoppers can then pick up an ornament and purchase the gift request. The gift is sent to a "wrapping party," where it is prepared.

Greg Bechard, not pictured here, of Home Instead Senior Care, says without programs like this many seniors would be forgotten during the holiday season.

"It's unfortunate that seniors are often forgotten about. Especially when they've done so much for our communities."
Avalon Woods owner Cleo Chmielinski

Avalon Woods Health Club in Etobicoke, Ont., is just one of the retail locations displaying the ornaments. Owner Cleo Chmielinski says the program has received a great reception among members. In fact, she even hosts an annual wrapping party at the club for volunteers.

To her, a program like Be a Santa for a Senior is extremely important for the community as a whole.

"It's unfortunate that seniors are often forgotten about," she told Metro, "especially when they've done so much for our communities."

This year, Bechard estimates there's between 5,000 — 6,000 gifts ready for wrapping in Toronto alone. Additionally, everyone who submitted a gift request will receive what they asked for. If you'd like to find a way to help — whether by buying a gift or attending a wrapping party, visit the program's website at beasantatoasenior.ca. Once your there, enter your postal code for the nearest retail outlet/office.

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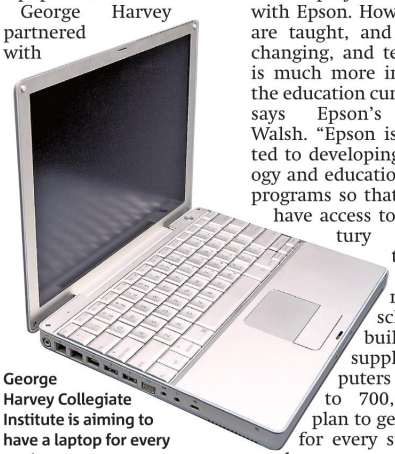
Tech puts struggling school back on track

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

An inner-city Toronto school is using technology to turn around its academic performance. George Harvey Collegiate Institute, near Keele and Eglinton, has seen students' grades soar and violence drop over the last seven years as it ramps up its IT abilities to make the classroom a collaborative concept.

"I hate the fact that kids power down when they come to school. I want them to stay powered up," says principal Anthony Vandyke. The low-income area school had suffered from high drop-out rates and rising absenteeism. "It had a vision of being a cyber-studies school. However, it didn't have all the equipment."

George Harvey partnered with Epson Canada to bring Powerlite projectors and Smartboards to the classrooms. That makes chalkboards a virtual place where teachers can share and save information with students and parents and allows them to go online in class to answer tough questions. The colourful graphics add pop to the lessons and the built-in closed captioning helps the hard of hearing.



George Harvey Collegiate Institute is aiming to have a laptop for every student.

"This project is a great fit with Epson. How students are taught, and learn, is changing, and technology is much more integral to the education curriculum," says Epson's Tamara Walsh. "Epson is committed to developing technology and education-focused programs so that teachers have access to 21st-century learning tools."

Separately, the school has built up its supply of computers from 180 to 700, with a plan to get a laptop for every student to lease at an affordable price. Grade 9 students take a mandatory computer course. "We're starting to work on wikis and blogs," says Vandyke.

The student population has risen from 400 seven years ago to 880 today. Half the students go on to university and 40 per cent go to college, up from a total of 20 per cent seven years ago. "The kids know there is a purpose and a function," explains Vandyke. "And this is not a school where we hand-pick our kids. The kids come here and we make the best of the students we get."

The high-tech approach engages students on their own terms and better prepares them for modern careers.

"You begin to integrate how teaching occurs," he says. "It helps engage students in what they see as a friendly atmosphere.

"Teachers are no longer the owners of knowledge. Kids can find information wherever they want; the teachers' expertise is how to facilitate and find the knowledge, to disseminate the knowledge and then apply it."

> **"Teachers are no longer the owners of knowledge. Kids can find information wherever they want; the teachers' expertise is how to facilitate and find the knowledge, to disseminate the knowledge and then apply it."**
> George Harvey Collegiate Institute principal Anthony Vandyke

Workology in **brief**

THREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY EMPLOYERS: The December issue of Today's Parent profiles the 2010 winners of Canada's top 25 family-friendly employers, which include George Brown College, McGill University, and Simon Fraser University. One reason George Brown was chosen is that all employees begin with 3 weeks' paid vacation and 5 days off during the Christmas holidays. McGill was selected for its on-site day care. Simon Fraser University was chosen for offering parental leave top-up to 100 per cent of salary for 37 weeks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Pretty Woman signs on him beauty product line
Julia Roberts, who most famously played a sex-trade worker in the movie Pretty Woman, has been named ambassador for the beauty product line Lancôme. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health & Beauty

News in brief

SNACKS The Centre for Science in the Public Interest recently reviewed movie theatre snacks to see how they rated. It turns out that a large buttered popcorn, a large drink, and some milk chocolate M&M's (150 g) pack quite a punch: 2,320 calories and 24 g saturated (bad) fat. CELIA MILNE/METRO CANADA

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PHOTOS.COM
A new study has shown that perscription pain killers were linked to more deaths than heroin.

Prescription pain killers

Opioid-related deaths double since 1991

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

They kill pain but they also kill people. A new Canadian study has found that deaths from prescription pain medications are on the rise.

"More people will die from prescription painkillers in 2009 than from H1N1," Dr. Irfan Dhalla told Metro in an email.

Dhalla is lead author of the study and a clinician-scientist at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Dhalla and his colleagues examined trends in the prescribing of opioid painkillers in Ontario from 1991 to 2007. Common opioids include Oxycontin, Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol with codeine, Demerol, and morphine. These painkillers are often prescribed for acute pain, such as post-surgery pain or the pain associated with a broken bone. They may be used also for severe chronic pain, such as from some forms of cancer. Doctors are now also prescribing opioids for less-severe pain, such as chronic back pain.

When researchers studied data for all deaths from 1991 to 2004, they found that opioid-related deaths doubled in that period, from 13.7 per million in 1991 to 27.2 per million in 2004. Prescribing of oxycodone — the active ingredient in Oxycontin — has risen very rapidly. From 1999 to 2004, the number of deaths related to oxycodone rose fivefold, says Dhalla.

There are far more deaths in Ontario from prescription painkillers than from heroin or cocaine, noted the study.

When healthy eating becomes harmful living

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

DIETING Healthy eating: Some people take it too far.

When people eliminate large numbers of foods in the name of health and then become obsessive-compulsive about food, this could signal they have a type of eating disorder.

Although "healthy eating disorder," or orthorexia nervosa as it is called, is not formally recognized as a mental illness, it does exist and is increasingly being noticed, says Colorado physician Steven Bratman, author of Health Food Junkies.

Orthorexia nervosa begins with a desire to avoid foods that are unhealthy, such as junk food. More and more foods end up on the "bad" list over time. Avoidance becomes fear and then sufferers develop an obsession with finding foods that won't make them sick. They lose weight, and sometimes it is hard to find enough to eat in order to carry on normal activities.

If you have a friend who fits this scenario, you should suggest they see a physician.

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Give the gift of goats

Express your love with these Christmas ideas

PHOTOS.COM

OXFAM Canada has a number of ways to show them you care.

When asked what she wanted for Christmas, R&B singer Rihanna told a British television interviewer that she wants some "great food and great sex." The latter may be a little hard to wrap, but how about a gift that may just lead to some greatness in that department?

In his 25 years as a marriage and family therapist in Winnipeg, Dr. Todd Sellick says that the biggest problem couples face when it comes to sex is not knowing each other's fantasies or expectations. That's why he and his wife Jan developed A Private Affair: The Erotic Game of Secrets, Plans & Promises for Couples, a 500-card game that facilitates the sharing of sexual secrets, opinions, and requests among other things.

I love that you can play it anywhere, in restaurants, over coffee, while out for a walk, or during car rides, say, en route to the in-laws for Christmas dinner. You're bound to arrive in a good mood. $34.99 Available through aprivateaffairgame.com

If you discover that one of her fantasies is to have a nice, long romantic massage, invest in a set of bSwish Massage Candles. The scented candles come in Fig Wood, Amber and Rose Patchouli. The candles melt at low temperature are set in an elegantly stylish porcelain holder designed to let you pour the warm wax on to your hands or directly on to your honey for a soothing and sexy massage. $22 Available at comeasyouare.com.

Rather than simply share your romantic fantasies, make each other actual characters in a romance novel with UStar Novels customized books. Choose a genre — from romantic to more racy — and answer a series of personalized questions about you and your partner and, in a week, you'll have your very own sexy reading material to share starring … the two of you! $32 at Ustarnovels.com. Metro readers enter code DCMETRO for a 25 per cent discount.

Nothing symbolizes a solid relationship quite so well as a tree, deepening its roots and growing stronger with each year. Give your love a concrete reminder of this symbol while helping the earth by planting a Love Tree.

Started by former journalist Andrea Koehle Jones, Love Trees sends seedlings to schools in Canada and the United States so kids can offset your carbon emissions by planting a tree of their own and watching it grow. Each tree bought comes with a Wish Tree Certificate so you'll have a physical reminder of how you want your relationship to grow $2.95 — $500 Available at lovetrees.ca

Express your love for your partner by being selfless. OXFAM Canada has a number of ways you can help others from buying a chicken or a goat for someone in the developing world or by supporting home-based care workers who attend to people suffering from HIV and AIDS. $15 Chicken/$58 Goat/$150 AIDS/HIV home care. Available at oxfamunwrapped.ca

Finally, you don't need to spend a lot of money to come up with a romantic gift for your sweetie. Do what author Ellen Green did. She kept an ongoing list of every sweet, remarkable and unremarkable thing her husband did throughout the year and gave him the list every Valentine's Day.

She published the best of 20 years of lists in Remember the Sweet Things: One List, Two Lives, and Twenty Years of Marriage.

If you start now, you should have quite a list by next Christmas.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Snacking can help prevent overeating
Skipping meals can lead to out-of-control hunger, often resulting in overeating. Snacking between meals can help curb hunger. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Recipe to defend against cancer

Soy, pistachios and hops held up as potential shields against disease

Together, it would be hard to imagine an appealing recipe for these three fixings: Soy, pistachios and hops.

But individually, the foodstuffs may hold ingredients that can help control a trio of the most common forms of cancer, according to three new studies released last week

In the most important of these, a major new paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that soy could dramatically decrease the risk of tumour recurrence among breast cancer survivors.

"I would say that this study would indicate that women with breast cancer should (eat) soy products," says Dr. Xiao Ou Shu, an epidemiologist at Nashville's Vanderbilt University Medical Centre who authored the study. "I think that it shows there is protection there."

The research, which looked at more than 5,000 breast cancer patients in China, showed a 32 per cent reduction in recurrence of the disease in women who consumed significant amounts of soy.

JENNIFER BAIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two news studies are suggesting that pistachios can act as potential shields for cancer.

Meanwhile, papers being presented at the American Association of Cancer Research conference in Houston this week are extolling the virtues of pistachios and hops as potential cancer shields.

Pistachios contain high levels of gamma-tocopherol, a Vitamin E compound that has been shown to lower the risks of developing lung cancer, says Ladia Hernandez, a senior research dietician at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Hernandez says she was searching for foods that would be best at delivering gamma-tocopherol into the blood.

She found a daily intake of about 117 pistachios (about 57 grams) a day on top of a regular diet would produce elevated levels without a corresponding weight gain.

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New York	Travel Jan 20 - Jan 27/aa	$199 + taxes & fees $113
Phoenix	Travel Jan 27 - Feb 3/nw	$229 + taxes & fees $119
San Diego	Travel Jan 20 - Jan 27/nw	$269 + taxes & fees $121
Rome	Travel Jan 25- Feb 2/ua	$399 + taxes & fees $386
San Francisco	Travel Jan 20 - Jan 27/aa	$419 + taxes & fees $128
Beijing	Travel Jan 20 - Feb 3/ua	$629 + taxes & fees $353
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Paris Air + First 2 Nights	*Hotel Concorde Montparnasse*	$699 + taxes & fees $407
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California Air + 3 Nights + 5-Night Cruise	*Golden Princess*	$1249 + taxes & fees $182
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Greece Air + 3 Nights + 4-Night Cruise	*M/V Aquamarine & Kaningos 21 (Athens)*	$1349 + taxes & fees $465
INCLUDES air, transfers, 4-night Greek Island & Turkey cruise and 3 nights 3-star accom in Athens with breakfast. CRUISE roundtrip Athens and visit Mykonos, Kusadasi (Turkey), Patmos, Rhodes, Crete & Santorini. Travel Apr 18 - Apr 26/vat/ts.		

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Take smart portions
If kids see their parents piling up their plates, they'll likely do the same. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Healthy holiday eating

Kids pack on the pounds over the break too

Pam Vetter's 15-year-old son balked when she told him she was opting for a healthier holiday season this year: fish rather than turkey, fewer carbs and sweets.

He threatened to purchase a turkey, stuffing, potatoes and pies and put together his own traditional meal.

"It's a moral challenge," said Vetter, 44, a non-religious celebrant in West Hills, Calif., who conducts funerals. She also has a 14-year-old son. "Do you make part of your family angry for the holiday season by cutting out the carbs and sweets?"

Many parents are trying to figure out how to have a healthier holiday without depriving their kids of Christmas cookies, potato latkes and other treats. About a third of North American kids are overweight or obese, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

While there is little research on children and holiday pounds, an Ohio State University study found that young children are prone to gain more weight in the summer than the school year when there is more time to snack and zone out in front of the television. Likewise, during the winter holidays many children are "indulging in their favourite foods and sitting around with nothing to do," said Dr. Joanna Dolgoff, a pediatrician and author of the forthcoming Red Light, Green Light, Eat Right: The Food Solution That Lets Kids Be Kids.

PHOTOS.COM

Parents are trying to find healthy alternatives to holiday foods.

Holiday tips

- Give kids a small healthy snack, such as string cheese before going to a holiday party, so they are not ravenous.
- Fight the temptation to hibernate and get out an exercise.

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Food bank help

Loblaw is introducing a new "Extra Helping" logo to be placed in store aisles alongside the food items most needed by the local food bank, such as canned fish or meat, lentils and beans and hot/cold cereal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Pile up your cone

Cuisipro's newfangled Ice Cream Scoop & Stack creates stackable cylinders for cones as well as "elegant desserts," as the makers say. This is not a quick tool: You shove the scoop into a tub of ice cream, using a pull, twist, push and release sequence to create your cylinder. The results can be fun and colourful though. The Scoop & Stack retails for $19.99 at kitchen shops. It is dishwasher-safe and is available in a variety of colours. For the nearest store, call 1-866-306-3672 (toll-free). TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A casserole fit for a cowboy

Cowboy Casserole

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/3 lb (600 g) unpeeled baking potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 Tbsp (20 mL) olive oil
- 1 tsp (5 mL) tomato paste
- 14 oz (398 mL) can baked beans
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen peas
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen green beans
- 7 oz (200 g) can corn, drained
- 2 Tbsp (25 mL) barbecue sauce
- 3 1/2 oz (100 g) smoked cheese, roughly chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Put potatoes into pot of boiling water. Bring back to boil; half-cover and simmer until just tender, but not breaking up. Drain thoroughly, reserving 4 tbsp (60 mL) cooking water. Tip potatoes into bowl, add oil and toss to coat. Set aside.

2. Blend tomato paste with reserved hot water in pot. Tip in baked beans, peas, green beans, corn and barbecue sauce. Heat gently, stirring, until mixture is barely warm and peas and green beans have thawed. Tip into shallow casserole dish, spreading into even layer. Scatter over cubes of smoked cheese.

3. Arrange potato slices over top, overlapping slightly to completely cover bean and cheese mixture. Bake 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown.

Clockwise from top: Cowboy casserole, salmon puffs with tzatziki and brie turkey pockets with cabbage and walnuts.

Salmon Puffs with Tzatziki

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 lb (375 g) pack pre-rolled puff pastry
- 5 1/3 oz (160 g) skinless salmon fillet, cut into 1/2-in. (1 cm) squares
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen fava beans
- 1 oz (30 g) fresh dill, chopped
- 1 oz (30 g) snipped fresh chives
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cucumber
- 1 cup (250 mL) plain yogurt

METHOD:

1. Remove pastry from fridge. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Put salmon squares in bowl and add frozen fava beans and herbs. Season and mix well.

2. Unroll pastry, then cut into four 7 x 3 1/3 -in. (17.5 x 8.5 cm) pieces. Brush egg lightly all over pastry. Mound salmon mixture in centres of pastry pieces. Place ricotta cheese on each mound of filling. Fold long ends of pastry up to meet over filling and pinch together at top. Press sides together to seal.

3. Transfer pastries to baking sheet and brush with egg. Bake until puffed and golden.

4. Meanwhile, grate cucumber into sieve and press out excess moisture over sink. Mix cucumber into yogurt. Transfer tzatziki to serving bowl and serve with hot salmon puffs.

Brie Turkey Pockets with Cabbage and Walnuts

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 oz (30 g) fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 dessert apple, peeled, cored and grated
- 4 thick turkey breasts
- 5 oz (150 g) brie, cut into 4 wedges
- 3 Tbsp (45 mL) olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) green cabbage, finely shredded
- 8 scallions, sliced
- 1 3/4 oz (50 g) walnuts, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Mix ginger and apple. Cut horizontally through each turkey breast (not all the way through). Divide ginger and apple mixture among pockets, then push wedge of cheese into each. Press meat together into shape and push filling evenly in pockets.

2. Put pockets neatly in one layer in shallow ovenproof dish. Brush with 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and sprinkle with seasoning to taste. Bake until turkey is browned on top and cooked through, and filling is running out in places.

3. Meanwhile, heat remaining oil in large pan and add cabbage, scallions and walnuts. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until cabbage is reduced in volume and lightly cooked. Add seasoning to taste. Transfer pockets to plates. Add some cabbage to each plate and serve immediately.

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Pour like Santa

Well here we are at the holiday home stretch. Thanks to my wife's expertise in the kitchen — and the central location of the Rockwell mansion — we tend to play host for the big family feast and what seems like a never-ending stream of well wishers.

They all arrive thirsty so finding drinkable wine options that lets you pour like Santa, even though you've spent like Scrooge, is every host's Christmas wish. Since trying to appeal to a variety of personal preferences is never easy, I recommend going with a bright, fruity red and a fresh, dry white with an eye on larger format bottles to save a few bucks.

An Aussie shiraz is the quintessential cocktail red (meaning it shines without food) with Lindemans 2008 Bin 50 Shiraz (1500 ml, $22.95 - $24.99) a jammy mix of black raspberry, red licorice and a lingering touch of pepper spice.

For a crisp, straightforward white, think Italy and Fontana di Papa's 2008 Colli Albani (1000 ml, $8.35 - $10.79): a classic bargain blend of malvasia and trebbiano that's ripe with refreshing green fruit and tastes best served ice cold right out of the fridge.

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Ginger biscotti

Enjoy a double hit of ginger and spices when you kick back with some coffee and biscotti.

When it opened, ACE Bakery sold various kinds of biscotti, but this ginger one was the most popular. It is a bit tricky to prepare, as the dough is sticky. On the plus side, it keeps for several weeks in a covered container. Adapted from More From ACE Bakery by Linda Haynes.

Ginger Biscotti

MAKES ABOUT 42 BISCOTTI

INGREDIENTS:

Dough
- 1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups + 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1-1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1-1/2 Tbsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp each: ground cinnamon, ground nutmeg
- 5 oz (140 g) crystallized ginger, finely chopped (about 1 cup)

Egg Wash
- 1 large egg
- 1 Tbsp milk
- Flour and grease baking sheet

METHOD:

For dough, whisk together oil and eggs in medium bowl until well blended.

In large bowl of stand mixer, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, ground ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg. Stir in crystallized ginger. Fit mixer with dough hook. Add egg mixture. Mix using stir speed until dough forms into clumpy ball, scraping bowl occasionally.

Turn dough out onto floured work surface. Cut into three equal pieces. Roll and pat each piece into slightly flattened log about 2-1/2 inches wide. Dough is sticky; moisten hands to smooth and adjust dough as needed. Transfer each log onto baking sheet, about 3 inches apart, as dough spreads. For egg wash, whisk together egg and milk in small bowl. Brush liberally over each log. (You will have some left over).

Bake in centre of preheated 325F oven until golden and just firm when pressed with fingertip, about 40 minutes. Remove from oven. Place pan on rack to cool to room temperature.

Remove each log from pan and cut diagonally into 1/2- to 3/4-inch slices, using serrated knife to prevent breakage. Place no more than 15 slices cut side down on baking sheet lined with parchment. Bake in centre of preheated 325F oven until golden, about 10 minutes. Repeat with 2 more batches.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LEFT: ACE Bakery's most popular biscotti is this ginger-flavoured one. It's a great recipe for the holiday season because it keeps for several weeks in a covered container.

Food in brief

BEVERAGE Talk about adding joy to your joystick. Canadian-born vintner Mike James has rolled his second love – video games – into 8-Bit Vintners (8bitvintners.com), a winery in Walla Walla, Wash., that recently launched its first vintage, appropriately dubbed Player 1. On the label, James bypasses pairing the wine with cheeses, desserts and grilled meats. Instead he recommends that Player 1 be enjoyed "while playing Mega Man 2 on the Nintendo Entertainment System or Shadow of the Colossus on PlayStation 2." Oenophiles should note that the red table wine – which isn't yet available in Canada – is a blend of mainly Syrah and Tempranillo grapes from various vineyards. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Campbells cuts sodium

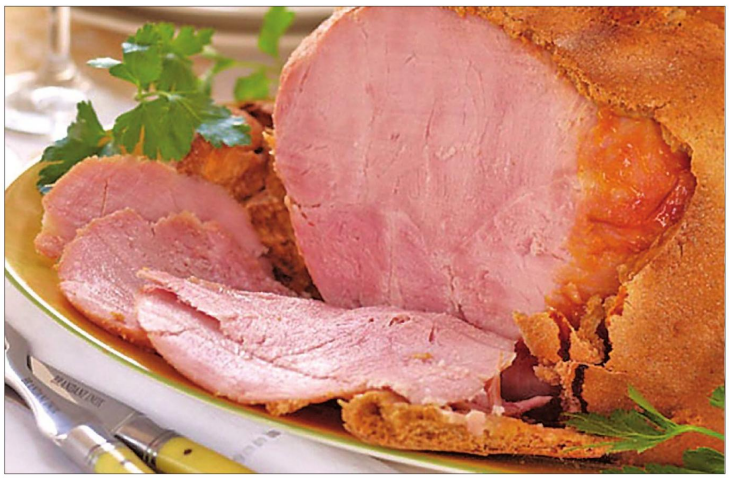
Campbell Soup Co. said Monday that it will cut the amount of sodium in its SpaghettiOs canned pastas by up to 35 per cent, as food makers increasingly try to make healthier products for children. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holiday ham with spelt crust

Honey mustard, molasses, honey and spelt bread make a flavourful coating for this traditional holiday ham. It is best served with seasonal vegetables.

Substitute tip

• Substitute grainy Dijon mustard for the honey mustard for a flavour that is more savoury than sweet. Source: ontariomeatproducts.ca. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Baked holiday ham coated with flavourful spelt crust.

Spelt Baked Ham

MAKES 20 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:

• 15 ml (1 Tbsp) active dry yeast
• 500 ml (2 cups) warm water, divided
• 50 ml (1/4 cup) fancy molasses
• 30 ml (2 Tbsp) liquid honey
• 750 ml (3 cups) all-purpose flour
• 15 ml (1 Tbsp) caraway seeds
• 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
• 750 ml (3 cups) whole-grain spelt flour
• 1 bone-in smoked ham (about 4.5 kg/10 lb)
• 30 ml (2 Tbsp) honey mustard

METHOD:

In a measuring cup or small bowl, sprinkle yeast over 50 ml (1/4 cup) of the warm water; let stand until foamy, about 10 minutes. In a bowl. whisk together molasses, honey and remaining water until well blended.

In a large bowl, whisk together all-purpose flour, caraway seeds and salt. Pour in foamy yeast mixture and molasses mixture. Stir until well blended. Stir in spelt flour, 250 ml (1 cup) at a time, to make a heavy dough.

Turn out onto a clean surface and knead until dough is firm and shiny, about 10 minutes. Place in an oiled bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place, about 2 hours. Punch down dough and form into a ball. Return to oiled bowl and refrigerate for at least 4 hours and up to 1 day. Let stand at room temperature for 1 hour before rolling.

Preheat oven to 160 C (325 F). Trim any fat from outside of ham. Rub mustard all over.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough until large enough to completely enclose ham (this will depend on size and shape of ham). Lay ham, flat side down, in the centre of the dough. Moisten edges of dough with water and wrap dough over ham, crimping edges to seal. Transfer to a large roasting pan or rimmed baking sheet. Use a sharp knife or kitchen shears to cut two vent holes on each side of ham. Cover with foil and bake in centre of oven for 1 1/2 hours. Uncover and continue to bake until a meat thermometer inserted in the centre reads 57 C (135 F), about 1 hour.

Transfer to a cutting board and let rest for 10 minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grilling the holiday bird?

Here are tips for winter at the barbecue

If it's been snowing, remove the snow from the entire grill before preheating.

• For direct cooking, it may be necessary to add a couple minutes of cooking time per side and use a food thermometer to ensure doneness.

• Most important when the air temperature is frigid is to keep the barbecue lid down as heat will escape very quickly and it can take a long time to get back to cooking temperature.

• Make sure your bulky winter clothing doesn't come into contact with the hot grill. Keep scarves tucked inside coats.

Source: weber.com/holiday-grilling. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AFI's top 10 movies

The American Film Institute has announced its list of Top 10 movies with honours going to Coraline, The Hangover, The Hurt Locker, The Messenger, Precious, A Serious Man, A Single Man, Sugar, Up and Up in the Air. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Viking voyage

Leonardo DiCaprio is set to star in a film directed by Mel Gibson that's set in the world of Viking culture, Variety reports. The script is by the writer who won an Oscar for The Departed. EW.COM

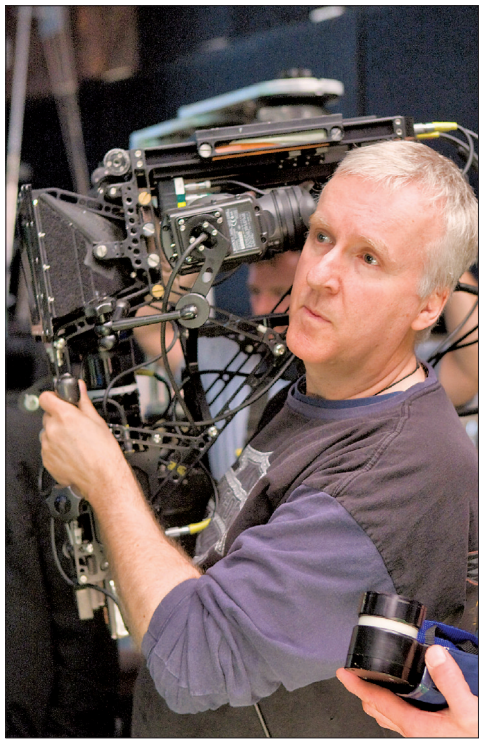
EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Pushing boundaries

'I'm going to make all my movies in 3-D:' Cameron

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Nearly 15 years after he originally conceived of the project and after more than four years of development, James Cameron finally brings his epic Avatar to the screen. The film explores an alien culture through the eyes of Jake (Sam Worthington), a marine who falls in love with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), one of the natives on the alien planet Pandora. We caught up with Cameron in London to discuss the massive undertaking that is Avatar.



More than four years in making, James Cameron's Avatar promises to combine the best of technology and storytelling.

Q How important was it to push the boundaries of 3-D filmmaking with this project?

A Up until now, every filmmaker who's made a 3-D film has really felt it incumbent upon themselves to constantly remind you that you're watching a 3-D movie. It's usually things that are floating or poking out of the screen. If I'm constantly reminding you that you're watching a 3-D movie, then you're constantly sitting there reminded that you're in a movie theatre.

So we approached the 3-D as if it were a window, or a portal into a reality. We didn't look for opportunities to constantly exercise our 3-D muscle in front of you. Maybe one thing that Avatar can achieve is to become an example of a mature use of stereoscopic 3-D.

Let it move out of its adolescence into a mature acceptance as just part of the cinematic art by serious filmmakers. I don't have a problem with that. I'm going to make all my movies in 3-D, no matter what the subject matter.

Q But Avatar is also being released in 2-D.

A We try not to make the film a 3-D film first. With some 3-D movies, you watch them in 2-D and there's a shot of a spear sticking out of the screen that they hold on for 10 seconds.

It's all sorts of fun in 3-D, but in 2-D it looks like the stupidest edit in the world. So we wanted to make sure we weren't doing that sort of thing. We're very proud of the 2-D version of the film we've put out. But it really comes down to consumer choice. I think of the 3-D as the premium experience of the film and the 2-D as the excellent base-level presentation of the film.

Q At the same time, there are strong environmental and political messages in the film. How did you work those in?

A I think it's less an intellectual message and more something you feel emotionally. I wanted people to feel the environmental message, not think about it, not have it droning on as information.

It's kind of the exact opposite of An Inconvenient Truth, with the bar graphs and all that. In an adventure film, it's more important to get these concepts viscerally. Historically, the kind of science fiction that I grew up on had a message. Usually it was a dystopian message, usually it was in the form of some kind of warning. And as much as I loved Star Wars, it was a moment in history when science fiction became more escapist fantasy and less a kind of intellectual medium. Avatar is an attempt to merge science fiction back to its roots of having a warning.

Q Is there going to be a sequel?

A I have it mapped out ... It all depends on whether we do well with the first film.

Actor needs kidney transplant
Grizzwald Chapman, known to most as Tracy Morgan's sidekick on NBC's 30 Rock, is in dire need of a kidney transplant, the actor has revealed during a taping of The Dr. Oz Show. **POPEATER.COM**

In hip hop, Drake's best we ever had

Toronto rapper's got massive buzz

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto hip-hop artists Drake has had made a dizzying ascent in the rap world — and he's done it without having released a proper album.

On his hit single Best I Ever Had, Canadian rapper Drake bragged that he had "buzz so big, I could probably sell a blank disc."

And in a way, he has done just that.

The Toronto hip-hop star has had made a dizzying ascent in the rap world — and he's done it without having released a proper album.

He has three top 20 singles in the U.S. and two Grammy nominations, he's collaborated with Jay-Z, Kanye West and Eminem, and he even had to shoot down rumours of a relationship with Barbadian pop star Rihanna (poor guy).

In a matter of months, he's become one of Canada's most prominent hip-hop exports ever, and one question remains: How did the former Degrassi star go from the cosy environs of Toronto's wealthy Forest Hill enclave to hanging around with Lil Wayne?

"You know what, I'll tell you honestly: it's the hustle and the drive," Toronto hip-hop artist Kardinal Offishall told The Canadian Press in a recent interview.

"I've seen Drake from a few years ago to where he's at now. It's not just because Lil Wayne picked him up or because he had an Internet buzz. I've seen him literally give it everything that he had, 150,000 per cent, in order to make it."

"It's the hustle and the drive. It's not just because Lil Wayne picked him up or because he had an Internet buzz. I've seen him literally give it everything that he had, 150,000 per cent, in order to make it."
Kardinal Offishall

And make it he has.

Born Aubrey Drake Graham in Memphis to a black father and a white Jewish mother, Drake moved to Toronto as a child after his parents divorced.

He got his big break in 2001 at the age of 14 when he was cast on Degrassi: The Next Generation as Jimmy Brooks, a high-school basketball star who eventually surrenders his hoop dreams after being shot in the back, leaving him confined to a wheelchair.

In 2006, Drake self-published his first mixtape, Room for Improvement. That led to Replacement Girl, his collaboration with Virginia R&B crooner Trey Songz that was the lead single on Drake's 2007 mixtape, Comeback Season, and which caught the attention of New Orleans rapper Lil Wayne.

Soon, Drake was tucked under Weezy's wing, riding shotgun with a rapper on the cusp of superduperstardom.

In 2008, Lil Wayne's Tha Carter III went platinum in a week and went on to sell more copies than any other album that year. In September '08, the rapper stepped onstage at the MTV Video Music Awards for a collaboration with Leona Lewis and T-Pain.

Shirtless and behind heavy dark shades, Lil Wayne crept down a staircase and rapped a verse that actually wasn't his. Lines like "I'm losing my mind like: 'Damn where my roof just go?' Top slipped off like Janet at the Super Bowl" actually belonged to Drake, then still a mostly unknown MC.

And when Lewis launched into the song's hook (from Nina Simone's Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood), Lil Wayne gave credit where it was due, rasping overtop: "Drizzy Drake, I love you boy!"

A few months after that high-profile endorsement, Drake dropped his next mixtape, So Far Gone, to almost unprecedented buzz for an emerging artist.

Drake was Weezy's protege and showed the influence of Wayne's mischievous, meticulous rhymes. But he arguably owed more to Kanye West, with his exploration of the space between swagger and self-criticism and his unfailing ear for melody.

The mixtape's swooning single Best I Ever Had was a perfect showcase, with Drake crooning the ballad's hook and rapping its intermittently sweet lyrics ("Sweat pants, hair tied, chillin' with no makeup on/ That's when you're the prettiest, I hope that you don't take it wrong").

The song went to No. 2 on the U.S. charts. Drake, still without a record label or official album, became the target of a major-label bidding war (Lil Wayne's Cash Money Records, under the Universal umbrella, ultimately won).

Drake began crafting his album debut, Thank Me Later, scheduled for the first quarter of 2010.

Meantime, his songs continued to get major airplay on both sides of the border. "Drake knows how to write records that are about big ideas," Washington rapper Wale.

"Look at the names of his songs: Fear, Forever, Winner. Those are big ideas."

Toronto-raised hip-hop artist K'naan was more blunt: "He's very good." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Good call

Playwright Risha Yorke's new production — John/Yoko Bed Piece — explores how both today's political left and right still fail to grasp John Lennon and Yoko Ono's subtle populism.

No bed of roses

Play recreates 1969 Lennon and Ono stunt

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

It's been 40 years since John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their 1969 Montreal bed-in, a peace protest that was celebrated for its optimism and mocked for its naivety.

It got huge press coverage worldwide, and Toronto playwright Risha Yorke's new production, John/Yoko Bed Piece, explores how both today's political left and right still fail to grasp Lennon and Ono's subtle populism.

"Today you see liberal celebrities wooing politicians," says Yorke by phone, "but a president can be replaced. His decisions can all be reversed by whoever comes after him. What John and Yoko did was reach millions of people through the media. That kind of influence is much more permanent."

John and Yoko's seven day bed-in at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel included visits from many of pivotal figures who visited the famous couple, including hippie guru Timothy Leary and conservative cartoonist Al Capp. In spite of the many political differences that John and Yoko's guests may have had, they all objected to the Vietnam war. Yorke believes that the inclusiveness of the event was critical.

"Al Capp was a right wing peace activist coming from a radically different position," says Yorke. "He wanted to believe in John and Yoko, but he (Capp) saw them as attempting something impossible. John and Yoko believed the way peace would finally work was with everyone on Earth being ready and willing to try."

That's a tall order, but doesn't mean the bed-in was futile. This sincere public debate made peace a headline. In that way, the event was a success.

In order to evoke the zeitgeist surrounding the bed-in, the multidisciplinary production company draft 89 includes choreographed movement and a musical score by Graeme Porter, who stars as Lennon alongside Sharon Marquez as Ono. The stage should be fairly saturated with the spirit of 1969.

"I rely on my actors to do a lot of homework," explains Yorke, who's also directing this play. "I did over three years of my own research, and have been Facebooking with Yoko. The quest is to help people be able to say no to violence.

"John makes a really good comment," recalls Yorke, "Ghandi did it right, he fought war with peace, but that was really frightening so they killed him."

Yorke sees the Lennon-Ono bed-in as a sort of clue, made from celebrity and media, that will lead to a revolution of human consciousness that refuses violence altogether.

More Details

- John/Yoko Bed Piece at The Toronto Centre for the Arts, Studio Theatre, tomorrow through Jan. 2, 2010.

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Teen Wolf hunting for a new cast

MTV has cast four actors in its upcoming Teen Wolf series, a re-imagining of the 1985 movie starring Michael J. Fox: Tyler Posey, Tyler Hoechlin, Crystal Reed and Dylan O'Brien will appear in the new version. EW.COM

Mix of Six

Theatre

When: Runs until January 2010
Where: Canon Theatre

Fiddler On The Roof by Joseph Stein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick continues at the Canon Theatre. mirvish.com

Music

When: Tonight
Where: Glenn Gould Studio

The Great Canadian Song Quest Concert presented by CBC Radio 2. roythomson.com

Family

When: Runs until January 2010
Where: Elgin Theatre , 189 Yonge St.

Robin Hood, The EnvironMental Family Musical. rosspetty.com

Musical

When: Runs until January 2010
Where: The Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave.

The Toxic Avenger Musical. toxicavengertoronto.com

Lecture

When: Tonight
Where: The Royal Ontario Museum

A discussion of Jewish and Christian origins as part of its Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

Sport

When: On now
Where: Nathan Phillips Square

Ice skating is currently underwear. Call 416 338 7465 (RINK) to find out conditions.

Stratford takes a road trip to Toronto

The Stratford Shakespeare Festival will be paying a visit to Toronto next year in a bid to win new audiences.

On Monday, the southwestern Ontario theatre company announced it is teaming with Mirvish Productions to bring A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum to Canada's most populous city.

The musical comedy, which opened to rave reviews at the festival last June, will be part of Mirvish's 2010/2011 subscription season.

Stratford artistic director Des McAnuff, who helmed the production, hopes the move will start a trend.

"There's been some history of moving productions but it's been reasonably kind of sporadic and we hope that will change," McAnuff, a Tony and Olivier Award winner, said Monday in a phone interview.

"I hope this is, as in Casablanca, the beginning of a beautiful relationship."

Stephen Sondheim's A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, which debuted on Broadway in 1962, follows the Roman slave Pseudolus as he plays matchmaker to gain his freedom.

"There's been a long tradition of sending work out of Stratford and I guess what we're really doing is rekindling that."

McAnuff wouldn't say who will be starring in the Toronto show.

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Kid Rock, Grohl sue bar

Kid Rock and Dave Grohl dropped a copyright infringement lawsuit on a Canton, Ohio bar because it allegedly didn't have the licensing to play their music. TMZ.COM

DVD picks

Inglourious Basterds

Director: Quentin Tarantino

PURE WISH-FULFILMENT fantasy by Quentin Tarantino (Once upon a time in Nazi-occupied France...), in which Hitler and his stooges stand to get what's coming to them, in a way that makes cinema itself seem like the grand liberator.

Grammatically challenged, factually unhinged and too long for its own good, this World War II thriller nevertheless soars thanks to one glorious performance — and it's not the one you think.

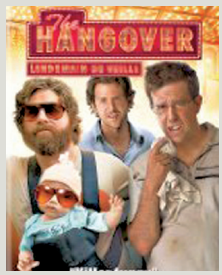
Top-billed Brad Pitt is merely amusing as Tennessee moonshiner Lt. Aldo The Apache Raine, who leads scalp-hunting Jewish-American soldiers against Hitler in Nazi-occupied France. But he's almost a Sgt. Rock parody and he's MIA for vast stretches.

The film's real star is Austria's Christoph Waltz, a multilingual wizard who inhabits the role of Col. Hans Landa, the smirking Gestapo officer known as "The Jew Hunter" for his uncanny sleuthing.

Heads are sliced and skulls are smashed — the latter being the specialty of Eli Roth's character, wild-eyed baseball nut Sgt. Donny Donowitz. But the film is less violent than the bloodthirsty ads suggest, and also less so than Tarantino's Kill Bill saga.

These Basterds blend into a much richer story, a revisionist romp with stars you don't immediately see shining.

Extras include a roundtable discussion with Tarantino, Pitt and film writer Elvis Mitchell and several featurettes, including Making of Nation's Pride and The Original Inglorious Bastards.



The Hangover

Director: Todd Phillips

A NO-STAR cast takes a shop-worn theme about boys being bad in Las Vegas, and turns it into something fresh, funny and profitable — $277 million US for the domestic market, enough to make it history's most successsful "R" rated comedy. Take that, Hollywood know-it-alls!

This is one clever little film. Director Todd Phillips and scripters Jon Lucas and Scott Moore cleverly keep us in suspense about how the monster hangover happened. First they show us the aftermath as three confused groomsmen (Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis) turn Vegas upside down in their quest for their missing groom (Justin Bartha) after their bachelor party goes hilariously awry.

Taking Woodstock

Director: Ang Lee

EXTREMELY TRIVIAL pursuit: Who rented the motel rooms to the guys who did the Woodstock Festival?

Elliot Teichberg, sweetly rendered in Taking Woodstock by comedian Demetri Martin, was that momentous innkeeper of the El Monaco motel. Ang Lee's enshrinement of this fact owes more to his desire to make a comic film after numerous dramas than to any serious pursuit of history.

With no real point to make, Lee and screenwriter James Schamus simply get high from the fumes, offering a character-rich ramble that's more like Robert Altman's Nashville than Michael Wadleigh's Woodstock.

Peter Howell/for Metro Canada

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	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Xmas Carol	Frosty Returns	Legend of Frosty		CBC News: The National		The Hour
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	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		The NEW Age of Wal-Mart		Warren Buffett and Bill Gates		Dirty Money: Prostitution		Mad Money
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family	551	542	25	YTV	OddParents	Flintstone Xms	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
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	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	*Holiday Wishes* (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.				*Eve's Christmas* (2004, Comedy-Drama) Elisa Donovan.				Grocery Bag
	570	580	29	MM	Year of Teen Power		The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		*The American Mall* (2008) Nina Dobrev.		
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Psychic Kids: Paranormal		Paranormal State (N)		Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	David Rocco	RIS - Delitti Imperfetti		George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
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	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*A Woman's Rage* (2008, Suspense) Brandy Ledford.				Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Quartet Plus Four at Christmas		Christmas at the Concert Hall		Johnny Cash Christmas		Johnny Cash Christmas		Law & Order
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	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Runaway Bride* (1999, Romance-Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Beauty Shop* ★★ (2005, Comedy) Queen Latifah.				Monica: Still	Monica: Still	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Medium (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "Grey Matters"		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	After	Catching Up: Teen Mom		Teen Mom		Teen Mom (N)		MTV Live
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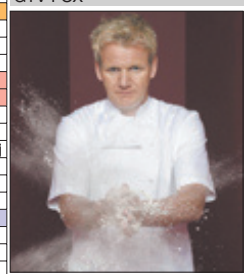
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Exotic	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word (N)		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef Am.
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Hallelujah	Dinnerladies	*The Christmas Wish* ★★ (1998, Drama) Neil Patrick Harris.				Gospel Chal
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Guess Jess	Night Garden	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing		The Closer (Part 2 of 2)		Cold Case		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(6:50) *Web of Lies* (2009, Suspense)			*Watchmen*	*Wanted* ★★★ (2008, Action) James McAvoy.				*Powder Blue*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Two Solitudes* ★★ (1978, Drama) Stacy Keach.				*Mickey Blue Eyes* ★★ (1999)			(10:45) *Last Call* (2001)	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart "Cop Out"		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Australia's Next Top Model		Pretty Wicked

critics' corner

Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live

Known as much for his temper as his culinary skills, the famed chef shows a friendlier side in this one-hour special as he provides instructions for cooking a three-course meal. On the menu: angel hair pasta with shrimp, chili peppers and tomatoes; steak Diane with sauteed potatoes and peas; and a quick tiramisu for dessert. 9 PM on GTV FOX



NCIS

When the enlisted son of a retired colonel-turned-preacher is found dead, the team thinks he may be the victim of a hate crime. At home, Gibbs tries to get to the reason behind his father's recent change in behavior while the latter is visiting in the new episode "Faith." 8 PM on GTV CBS

The Good Wife

A judge known for handing down questionable sentences overturns a simple plea deal arranged by Alicia, causing her to question his motives. Will is delighted when Diane receives an offer she can't refuse in the new episode "Lifeguard." 10 PM on GTV CBS

Basterds, Nine lead Critics' noms

AWARDS Inglourious Basterds and Nine lead contenders for the Critics' Choice Movie Awards with 10 nominations each, including best picture. Other best-picture nominees are Avatar, An Education, The Hurt Locker, Invictus, Precious, A Serious Man, Up and Up in the Air.

Precious actress wins L.A. award

HONOUR Mo'Nique has won the supporting-actress award for Precious and Christoph Waltz has earned the supporting-actor prize for Inglourious Basterds from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Mo'Nique won for her role as a hateful welfare mother in Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire. Waltz won for playing a gleefully savage Nazi in Inglourious Basterds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Sags win out over scalpels
Dame Judi Dench feels "too old" for cosmetic surgery. The 75-year-old actress admits she hates getting older but worries she has left it too late to alter her appearance, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay in the Twitter

THINK BEFORE YOU TWEET Lindsay Lohan's habitual Twittering may have brought an early end to her trip to India for aid work and a BBC documentary. "Over 40 children saved so far within one day's work. This is what life is about," Lohan posted to her profile, referring to a raid in New Delhi that that saved children being held captive in workshops. "She did not say she was present at the raid, this is a misinterpretation," a rep for the BBC tells the Daily Telegraph. "She was merely referring to a raid that happened connected to child trafficking." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Chace's woes

POOR PRETTY BOY Chace Crawford hated being a model, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Gossip Girl actor says he didn't enjoy his time in the modelling world but knows his good looks have helped him in his career.

He said, "I did some catalogue work in Dallas, just to make some extra money. I hate modelling.

"But I'm not ignorant to the fact that part of the reason why Gossip Girl is poplar and part of the reason why people want to see it is to be like, 'Oh, novelty boy! Hot boy! Pretty boy!'" METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jude and Sienna shack up

HERE WE GO AGAIN Jude Law, 36, and Sienna Miller, 27, are moving in together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pair — who have rekindled their romance after splitting up in 2006 when the actor had an affair with his children's nanny — are so "in love" they are now looking to buy a new London pad early next year so they can be together all the time.

A source told Britain's The Sun newspaper, "Last week they put the wheels in motion to live together again. They have told staff that they are in love and will be moving back to London in the spring and they will be living together as a couple once again."

The on-and-off couple grew close again recently when they both starred in separate Broadway shows in New York at the same time, Jude appearing in Hamlet and Sienna in Miss Julie.

The pair were recently spotted leaving Law's New York apartment together, sparking rumours of a reconciliation.

They first met on the set of Alfie in 2004.

The source added, "Jude was reluctant at first for anything to happen. But Sienna convinced him that she was still in love with him." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taylor Swift gives big bucks

BIRTHDAY BONUS SCHOOLS Taylor Swift is no longer a teen. The country superstar marked turning 20 with a Christmas-themed birthday party for friends, her band and her tour crew at her family's home in Hendersonville, Tenn, people.com reports.

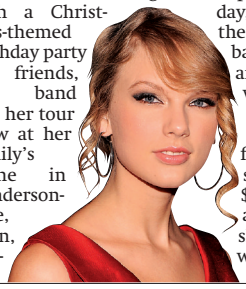
"It's more like an end-of-year Christmas party that happens to be on my birthday," says Swift, who spent the night before at home, baking butter cookies and gingerbread cookies with cream-cheese icing for her guests.

The biggest gift came from Swift herself. The singer has donated $250,000 US to schools around the country that she's either attended or worked with.

The money will pay teachers' salaries as well as buy books and fund various educational programs.

"Something I wanted to do at the end of this amazing year and especially on my birthday was give back to something I really believe in, which is education," says Swift.

"The schools that I went to and the amazing people I got to learn from really turned me into who I am, and I wanted to give back." METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brand browsing for diamonds?

HE KISSED A GIRL Russell Brand has been shopping for a diamond ring — sparking rumours he is going to propose to girlfriend Katy Perry, people.com reports.

The British comic star was photographed looking at bands at exclusive London jewellers Cartier on Friday with one specific sparkler catching his eye.

A source said, "His face lit up when he saw this one particular diamond ring.

Brand — who is a former heroin addict and alcoholic — said, "She's 'The One.'

"I'm a one-woman gentleman now. She's amazing." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Michelle has her secrets

SHE DOESN'T KISS AND TELL Michelle Rodriguez is tired of having to respond to questions about her sexuality. "If I wanted to tell people what I do … I'd have made a sex video a long time ago," the Avatar star says, who has been rumoured to be lesbian or bisexual according to Showbiz Spy. "Largely, people don't know the whole story about anything. But still they need to put a name on it so they can label it and put it on the side and not dedicate any time to figuring it out. It's laziness." METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

LL Cool J is not a fan of rocking, Demi Moore can't stand the rain, Yoko Ono wants you to start small and Neil Diamond does the holidays big-time.

• @llcoolj Do not confuse motion and progress. A rocking horse keeps moving but does not make any progress.

• @mrskutcher Trying to holiday shop in the pouring rain....bah humbug!

• @yokoono Give up meat one day and then two days maybe. It's a very, very intelligent idea.

• @NeilDiamond Sang for the President and Mrs. Obama last night. Terrific. Wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy Chanukah. METRO WORLD NEWS

Garth is a such a romantic

I'M LOVIN' IT? As far as anniversaries go, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood must have to be "lovin' it," people.com reports.

Brooks, who came out of retirement and officially began his five-year run of shows at Wynn Las Vegas on Saturday, had a fancy dinner planned to celebrate his fouth anniversary with Yearwood, but suddenly that meal became McDonald's French fries.

"That was our anniversary dinner," he told reporters. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica has 'fallen for Billy'

ODDEST COUPLE EVER Though she's said to be taking it slow, Jessica Simpson is totally smitten with Smashing Pumpkins front-man Billy Corgan, sources close to the pop star say. "She has completely fallen for Billy and his easygoing, smart attitude. She says she wants to take things a lot further," sources say, according to Hollyscoop.

"She had secretly been crushing on him for months and felt there was a connection." METRO WORLD NEWS

"★★★★/4 a splendid spectacle!" —The Toronto Star
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Wed Dec 23	1 pm**	5:30 pm**
Sun Dec 27	1 pm**	5:30 pm**
Mon Dec 28	1 pm**	
Tues Dec 29	1 pm**	5:30 pm**
Wed Dec 30	1 pm**	5:30 pm**
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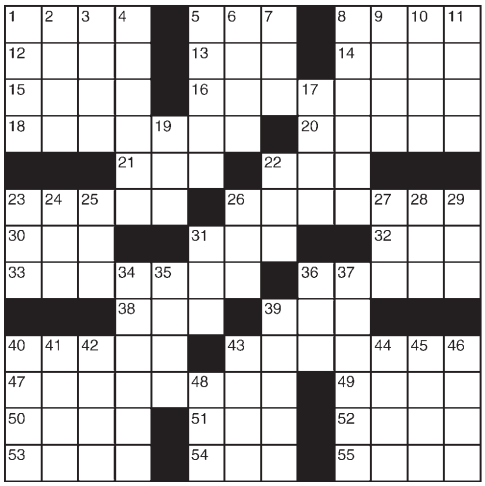


ACROSS

1 Initial stake
5 Resort
8 Obama's predecessor
12 — -garou (werewolf)
13 Sept. preceder
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Choir member
16 Pop-up's opposite
18 More healthy
20 Urban disturbances
21 "Of course"
22 21-Across, at the altar
23 Bard's creations
26 Cad
30 Resistance measure
31 Pistol
32 Actress Gardner
33 Sledgehammer, e.g.
36 Red Sea nation
38 Lubricate
39 Swindle
40 Disco-style
43 Creator of a company
47 Flatfish
49 Modern coin
50 Carry on
51 Greek H
52 "— Karenina"
53 Harem rooms
54 Nev. neighbor
55 "Monopoly" card

DOWN

1 "Woe is me!"
2 — contendere
3 Ballerina's frill
4 Namesake of a sort
5 Wise ones
6 Kitten's call
7 Past
8 Toe woe
9 Loosen
10 Cancel a dele
11 — d'oeuvres
17 Asian language
19 — Moines
22 Charged bit
23 Burst
24 Cry of discovery
25 Ostrich's cousin
26 Botanical prickle
27 Hoover, for one
28 First lady
29 Sprinted
31 Come together
34 Reason for a lack of glory?
35 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
36 Second person
37 Group of nine
39 Reef material
40 Frizzy hairstyle
41 Pleased
42 Chaplin widow
43 Crumbly cheese
44 Sand formation
45 Sea eagle
46 Street
48 Calendar abbr.

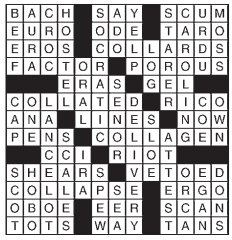
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

4		3				1		8
	9		1		8		5	
7			5		9			2
		8	3		5	4		
		9	6		4	3		
8			2		7			6
	1		4		6		3	
5		7				8		4

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	4	3	1	6	5	8	2	9
1	2	6	9	8	4	7	5	3
9	5	8	7	2	3	4	6	1
3	8	9	6	4	2	1	7	5
5	1	4	8	3	7	2	9	6
6	7	2	5	9	1	3	4	8
8	3	5	4	7	6	9	1	2
2	6	7	3	1	9	5	8	4
4	9	1	2	5	8	6	3	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Seafood and Bacon Paella

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
2 large garlic cloves, chopped
7 oz (200 g) bacon, chopped
1 large tomato, chopped
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) paella rice
1/2 tsp (2 ml) saffron threads, crushed
5 cups (1.25 l) hot chicken stock
14 oz (400 g) frozen cooked seafood mix

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large, nonstick frying pan. Add onion, pepper, garlic and bacon pieces, and cook over gentle heat 5 minutes. Add tomato and cook 2 minutes.
2. Add rice and stir to coat in oil. Add saffron threads and heat for a few seconds, then pour in hot stock. Bring to boil, then stir lightly and simmer 5 minutes.
3. Mix in frozen seafood, return to gentle simmer and cook until rice is tender and liquid absorbed, stirring occasionally. Serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Ignore your critics and do what you think is best. It might be an idea in future to keep your plans to yourself so others don't get the chance to poke their noses in.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun in Sagittarius at this time of year tends to make you anxious but if you think about it you will realize you've got precious little to worry about.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may think you know all there is to know about someone you love but they will do something today that makes you realize you don't know it all.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The Sun may be transiting the work area of your chart at the moment but you don't have to do everything yourself.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You won't lack for confidence today but what about common sense? If you take foolish risks no amount of confidence will save you.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand today, so promise yourself now that no matter what anyone says to you you won't rise to the bait.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point blaming other people if something does not go right for you. Look at your own performance first and resist the urge to pass the buck.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't waste money on things you don't really need. Something may be bright and shiny and catch your fancy today but what good would it do you?

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your energy levels may be high but you seem unable to decide what you should be doing with it all. But who says you have to do anything?

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may be rather fearful at the moment but it won't be long before you are feeling better.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Sometimes it pays to be blunt and this may be one of those times. Others won't mind your forthright language so long as they understand it.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Keep a cool head today because something is going to happen that has others running around like it's the end of the world.

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Breakfast • Luxe island view rm.
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Resort view rm.
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Antigua
Jolly Beach Resort & Spa • 3 1/2★
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+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $233

Aruba
Divi Tamarijn Aruba • 3 1/2★
All-Inclusive
Deluxe oceanfront rm.
Jan. 16, 17 & 24 • 1 wk.
$1469
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $237

Barbados
Bougainvillea Beach Resort • 4 ★
Deluxe studio
Feb. 2, 3, 9, 10 & 16 • 1 wk.
$1569
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $79

Grenada
Grenadian by rex resorts • 3 1/2★
Hillside rm.
Jan. 17, 24 & 31 • 1 wk.
$949
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $205

Saint Lucia
Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa • 4★
All-Inclusive
Deluxe garden view rm.
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PRIVILEGES
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Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
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2365 Yonge St. (north of Eglinton)
455 Danforth Ave.
720 King St. W
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway
1184 Kennedy Rd.
3 - 2610 Weston Rd.
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
104 - 5050 Dufferin St.
25 Davenport Rd.
1158 Warden Ave.

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Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
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55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Square)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
6535B Mississauga Rd.
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
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18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

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Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

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Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

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